From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 4:47 PM
To: 'judith curry'
Cc: 'Travis Fisher'; 'Roy Spencer'; 'Ross McKitrick'; 'John Christy'; 'Josh Loucks'
Subject: RE: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

I guess I am advocating for a focus on hazards for several reasons:

- Hazard is foundational. Without discussing (quantifying) it, can't have a useful discussion of exposure or vulnerability
- Hazard is where the climate science enters and it's where this group has expertise. If we want to get into the vulnerability of, and mitigation measures for, say, the Texas grid under temperature extremes, I'd want to hear from a whole different set of folks
- It's a doable do. Broadening out the scope would require a cast of hundreds and take years
- As you note, it hasn't been done well in the NCA process. But what we've written is quite good and fills most of the bill. So a useful question is "What would have to be added to our report to make it serve as an NCA?"

From: judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Risks. Combine hazard exposure vulnerability. Steve are you proposing we focus only on hazard and not exposure or vulnerability. This has been sort of attempted in previous ncas but in a rather pathetic and inadequate manner
Sent from my iPhone

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(iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
(iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
(v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
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(viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
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DOJ_00099929

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--

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
<~WRD0728.jpg> Reno, NV USA
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"Global change" was a brief faddish bit of terminology 25+ years ago when the AGW crowd were trying to move off "Global Warming" They first moved to Global Climate Change and then briefly just Global Change. There were a few efforts in Canada to get "global change" research programs going, back when I got invited to that sort of thing, and everyone wanted a piece of it even if they weren't doing climate-related work hence the most general possible title was chosen. But the language was so formless and directionless, not to mention pretentious, the terminology didn't survive and eventually became climate change.

At today's meeting let's clarify what the document needs to accomplish and then we can spend the next week or so working on it. I think replacing the NCA leviathan with something very small and useful is a good goal to take on.

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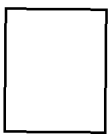

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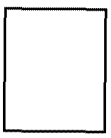

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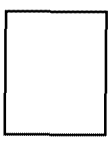

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IMO we should talk about evolving the NCA

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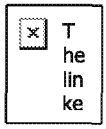

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Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Judith Curry
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Yes, "global" confused me as well.

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DOJ_00099957

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Attachments: Reforming the NCA process-[RS edits] CURRY.docx; Chapter 10 (2).docx

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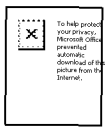

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Summary of Errors in the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) and Proposal to Reform the NCA Process

Commented [TF1]: Should this be drafted as a proposed rulemaking?

I. Executive Summary

The fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) fails to meet the statutory requirements of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA)[1] and violates Executive Order 14303, "Restoring Gold Standard Science" (EO14303).[2] NCA 5 must be replaced by an objective, science-based National Global Change Assessment that complies with the GCRA and EO14303.

Commented [TF2]: Do all NCAs so far rely to some degree on RCP 8.5? We could go further here and find that no prior NCA complies with the Executive Order

Commented [RS3R2]: No, but the use of a range of emissions scenarios go back to NCA1. I think it's best to stick to the last 1-2 NCAs which represent the current state-of-the-art.

Under the GCRA's terms, the USGCRP must issue periodic assessments to update policymakers on a variety of global changes. To fulfill its statutory mission to "describe and understand" the Earth's systems and human impacts on them, such a report should be ~~comprehensive,~~ objective, ~~and precise~~based upon realistic assumptions, include societal benefits of modest levels of warming, and account for human adaptation. In recent years, however, USGCRP assessments have ~~become climate-focused documents that serve to~~ increasingly served to justify predetermined policy and societal actions.

Commented [RS4]: My changes here are meant to distinguish our approach from that of previous NCAs: I think hundreds of previous authors would object to the inference they were not comprehensive, or lacked scientific integrity.

Compliance with the GCRA and EO14303 requires a new, revamped National Global Change Assessment authored by scientists ~~with a track record of scientific integrity~~ through a process that prioritizes scientific rigor over issues of social justice. It ~~will also~~ requires a new commitment to descriptive science rather than prescriptive advocacy. This document proposes ___ key reforms to overhaul the upcoming NCA6 in line with directives from EO14303 and the GCRA's statutory mandate:

~~Reform 1. Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes~~

Commented [RS5]: Renaming the report should not be considered a top reform

Reform ~~1~~2: Reject implausible or outlier scenarios and properly address uncertainties

Reform ~~2~~3: Address both positive and negative changes

~~Reform 4. Restructure committees and replace key personnel~~

Commented [RS6]: I think reforms should stick to the science problems of the NCAs, not bureaucracy.

[expand?]

Comments on this proposed rule are due within XX days of publication in the Federal Register.

[1] [HYPERLINK "https://www.globalchange.gov/about-us/legal-mandate"]
[2] [HYPERLINK "https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09802/restoring-gold-standard-science"]

DOJ_00099968

II. ~~Introduction:~~ The Need for Reform

~~Since its inception, the USGCRP's assessments have fallen short of their statutory charge under the GCRA "to improve understanding of global change" and inform policymakers in the United States.~~ Congress intended for USGCRP to provide a holistic report on global change to help policymakers make objective policy decisions, but the NCA has served instead as a political tool for advancing ~~an interventionist~~ a specific climate policy agenda while introducing selection biases in scientific data. As such, it has fallen short of the intended goals of the GCRA.

Despite the NCA's failure to comply with the GCRA, it holds immense power. First, ~~ideological activists frequently cite~~ the NCA is frequently cited in climate litigation since recent NCAs rely upon ~~highly improbably~~ implausible future CO_2 emissions scenarios and global climate models that produce too much warming even with realistic emissions scenarios ~~CO_2 assumptions, because it supports their arguments and is developed by 700+ academic authors.~~ Second, the NCA provides a foundation for the 2009 Endangerment Finding that any greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pose a significant threat to public health and welfare.[3] The regulatory regime enabled by the Endangerment Finding has been one of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) most impactful tools in implementing energy and environmental policy in the United States since 2009.[4] Third, numerous federal and state policymakers point to the NCA to justify policies that increase energy costs for U.S. consumers and manufacturers, limit economic growth, and add costs that disproportionately harm lower-income Americans.[5] Those downsides of energy policies are seldom discussed, even though their costs will fall on U.S. citizens.

Commented [RS7]: 500+ authors. Also, many would view the large number of authors of evidence of increasingly widespread consensus (NCA1 had 112 authors, I counted)

The first Trump administration declined to correct course on the NCA. However, we find good reason to correct course today, particularly considering EO14303 and its admonition to return to gold standard science, including using realistic future emissions scenarios—rather than Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 (RCP 8.5)—to assess the potential effects of climate change. We also find the May 2025 report commissioned by the Secretary of Energy, "Impacts of Carbon Dioxide Emissions on the U.S. Climate," to offer compelling reasons to revisit many of the conclusions in NCA 5 that were presented as incontrovertible.

The sixth National Climate Assessment (NCA 6) was under development until ____, scheduled for release in late 2027 or early 2028. With this rulemaking, we ensure compliance with GCRA and EO14303 and announce our intent to issue the new "National Global Change Assessment" (NGCA 1) on or around the same timeline as the proposed NCA 6.

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[3] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a"]

[4] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-clean-air-act-0" \h] [add a list of major rules that rely on the endangerment finding?]

[5] Need some examples.

DOJ_00099970

III. Specification of Errors in NCA 5 and Previous Reports

Commented [TF8]: Please feel free to tee off on this section. I pasted John's initial thoughts here

Past global change reports—which so far have been called National Climate Assessments—have repeatedly failed on ___ counts to comply with OCRA and/or EO14303. Specifically,

From JC:

Rejection of NCA5 based on significant problems. DoE-CR = Department of Energy Climate Report May 2025.

NCA5 failed to verify climate model output as fit-for-purpose. DoE-CR Ch4,5.

NCA5 relied on model output based on an implausible emissions scenario. DoE-CR Ch4,5

NCA5 misrepresented changes in extreme weather events by using short data records and improper mathematical analyses. DoE-CR Ch6.

NCA5 failed to investigate the full range of impacts, especially the positive impacts, of adding CO2 to the atmosphere while overstating the negative impacts. DoE-CR Ch1,2,3,9,11.

NCA5 failed to perform a comprehensive analysis of economic impacts of enhanced atmospheric CO2. DoE-CR Ch9-12.

NCA5 failed to perform ~~comprehensive~~ scientifically defensible analyses ~~(using the scientific method)~~ regarding attribution of those changes that have been observed. DoE-CR Ch8.

A. The NCA ignores non-climate changes

Commented [RS9]: I would put as the first error the reliance on extremely unlikely CO2 emissions scenarios; RCP/SSP 8.5 is mentioned more than all other scenarios combined in NCA5.

The NCA is tasked with covering the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity and their respective long-term changes over 25 and 100 years.

Commented [RS10]: I'm not an expert on the NCAs, but from what I've seen they do cover most if not all of the list in this paragraph.

Instead the NCA puts a narrow focus on climate and, for any given area of global change, only discusses the climate change-related impacts on that area. Societal changes such as population growth, economic development, technological advances, and increases in resilience receive little mention IS THIS CORRECT

B. The NCA ignores positive changes

Even within its narrow focus of climate, the NCA should cover positive and negative climate changes. Instead, the NCA focuses entirely on negative climate changes and completely ignores positive climate changes.[6]

The NCA analyzes increases in danger potential from extreme weather with more warming, but ignores the far more massive decline in weather-related death rates at the national and global scale and the

[6] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]

DOJ_00099972

potential for growing wealth and technological advancements to make us even safer from climate and extreme weather.[7]

The NCA emphasizes a minor projected increase in heat-related deaths, but ignores the larger projected decrease in cold-related deaths thanks to warming and the preventability of temperature-related deaths in a wealthier and more technologically advanced US and global economy.[8]

The NCA emphasizes potential for negative impacts on agriculture thanks to climate change, but ignores benefits from increasing CO2 and climate change and the far larger projected increase in agricultural productivity over the next century thanks to technological progress—which far outweighs the projected negative impacts even in high emissions scenarios.[9]

More broadly, the NCA ~~completely~~ fails to ~~make any~~ mention of the massive increase in climate resilience globally thanks to heating, A/C, irrigation systems, storm warning systems, infrastructure, and other such technology—despite the fact that these measures decreased the global decadal climate-related disaster death rate by an incredible 98% between 1920 and 2020, which required the historical use of fossil fuels and will continue to require fossil fuel use for the foreseeable future.[10]

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[7] [HYPERLINK "https://energytalkingpoints.com/3-undeniable-facts-about-climate-for-cop29/" \h]

[8] [HYPERLINK "https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00081-4/fulltext" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://financialpost.com/opinion/bjorn-lomborg-climate-change-and-deaths-from-extreme-heat-and-cold" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h]

[9] [HYPERLINK "https://thebreakthrough.org/issues/food-agriculture-environment/the-ipcc-report-on-the-impacts-of-climate-change-is-depressing" \h]

[10] *For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought,* flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 per year during the 2010s.

Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [HYPERLINK "http://www.emdat.be" \h] (D. Guha-Sapir).

Population estimates for the 1920s from the [HYPERLINK "https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/releases/maddison-database-2010" \h], the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at University of Groningen. For years not shown, the population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.

Population estimates for the 2010s come from [HYPERLINK "https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL" \h].

DOJ_00099973

C. The NCA amplifies negative changes

Commented [RS11]: I think this should be the first point.

~~When considering negative changes, the NCA should be precise. Instead, t~~The NCA repeatedly exaggerates and fabricates negative climate changes.

Example: The NCA exaggerates projected climate harms using ~~highly~~ implausible emissions scenarios like RCP8.5.

The NCA uncritically employs a set of extremely implausible to impossible scenarios (e.g., RCP8.5/SSP3-7.0) in the projection of future outcomes, and treats them as equally plausible to other scenarios. Even though ~~mainstream climatology views~~ these scenarios and their associated projected outcomes—such as sea level rises of over 2 meters by the year 2100—~~to be incredibly unlikely~~ are regarded as implausible, the NCA ~~describes these scenarios as all being plausible futures and even~~ regards these scenarios as worth emphasizing.

For example, the NCA5 mentions that "mass fish die-offs from extreme summertime heat are projected to double by midcentury in northern temperate lakes under a very high scenario (RCP8.5)." No other outcome under a different scenario is mentioned in this context, despite this being an ~~incredibly unlikely to impossible~~ implausible scenario. And there is no mention of the uncertainties involved in such an extreme and unlikely projection.[11]

Another example comes from the electricity sector. NCA5 states that "Annual expenditures on electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure *could* rise up to 25% by 2090 under a very high scenario (RCP8.5) compared to a scenario without climate change." (emphasis added) There is no attempt to assess the likelihood of this outcome, no mention of any other more realistic scenario, no acknowledgement that a scenario without climate change is impossible and not a sound baseline for comparison. There is also no mention that the promoted climate policies in NCA5—increasing reliance on green electricity from solar and wind—have already and would continue to massively increase the cost of such infrastructure~~, while some simple adaptation measures—like burying transmission lines—could likely nullify the potential impacts of extreme weather on such infrastructure by the late 21st century~~.[12]

Example: The NCA exaggerates harms from extreme weather events using the pseudoscientific "billion-dollar disaster" statistic.

The NCA uncritically cites ~~the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's~~ NOAA's "billion-dollar disasters" statistic, which counts the number of natural disasters in the U.S. each year that cause at least $1 billion in damages, as evidence that "[h]armful impacts from more frequent and severe extremes are increasing across the country"—despite the inadequacy of disaster cost statistics to derive extreme weather trends because of the multiple factors—like economic growth and disproportionately increasing populations in vulnerable spots—involved, and the enormous methodological and data collection flaws in NOAA's product, which violate basic principles of scientific integrity and transparency.[13]

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[11] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[12] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[13] [HYPERLINK "https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://doi.org/10.1038/s44304-024-00011-0" \h]

NOAA's billion dollar disaster statistic represents an outlier finding in defiance of available quality scientific publications and the IPCC, which finds that most human impacts on climate extremes like storms and floods are yet undetected and will likely remain so for the rest of the century, even assuming very high emission scenarios.[14]

Based on the scientific literature, disaster cost trends are flat and can mostly or even completely be explained by increases in demographic trends and increasing concentrations of wealth in vulnerable areas like coastlines, rendering the NCA's claims at minimum a major exaggeration of the truth.[15]

The NCA fails to acknowledge uncertainty.

Despite the statute's mandate that USGCRP's report "discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings," the NCA completely fails to identify the extremely high levels of uncertainty associated with these future outcomes.

[expand]

Additional examples may be found in the public comment and response record.[16]

Commented [TF12]: Does anyone want to comb through the record and find some of the more egregious examples?

[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-are-a-national?utm_source=publication-search" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-not-the" \h]
[14] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/what-the-ipcc-actually-says-about?utm_source=publication-search" \h]
[15] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/climate-change-is-showing-its-claws" \h]
[16] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA5_Public-Comments-Author-Responses-ZOD.pdf" \h]

DOJ_00099975

IV. Reforms to the USGCRP

A. Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes

DON'T LIKE THE WORLD GLOBAL HERE. ARE WE REALLY TALKINGABOUT AFRICA ETC

To date, the global change report has failed to comply with the GCRA because it is not comprehensive. The report is renamed the "National Global Change Assessment" and must address "global change" as it is defined in the statute. Past reports including NCA5 have interpreted the term to mean something like "climate change and its related global effects." But while "global change" includes climate change, it is not limited to it. We will stake out a broader scope for the report, which will include important trends and help to close relevant knowledge gaps about potentially important topics, as intended by Congress.

In particular, the revamped assessment will highlight trends in things like [please add items as necessary] energy production/use, known reserves, deaths from natural disaster and temperature exposure, human health, agricultural production, total/coastal populations, criteria pollutant emissions, forest cover, solar insolation, potable water, etc.

The word global is misleading and ambiguous here. We should be talking about a comprehensive climate risk assessment for the US

B. Reject unrealistic scenarios and address uncertainties

The next assessment shall not rely on any implausible emissions scenarios. For example the next assessment must not include any references to UN IPCC report outcomes or ~~similarly flawed~~ other analyses that are based on SSP3-7.0 or RCP8.5, which are nowknown to involve unrealistically high future CO_2 emissions.

The next assessment shall examine the plausibility and limitations of scenarios describing the potential future under global changes and limit its analysis to scenarios that are at least within the likely range of possible developments. For climate scenarios this should mean a limit to those futures that feature no more than 3°C of warming above preindustrial levels.

C. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment shall acknowledge uncertainty about future changes and the potential of humans to adapt to or mitigate negative impacts through technological advancements. The goal is to identify key drivers of human well-being, including economic prosperity and freedom of action to optimize these factors on the individual, national, and global level.

D. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment must be regarded as a "highly influential scientific assessment" under the Information Quality Act (IQA), subjecting its review to additional obligations, including: reproducibility, transparency, utility, traceability, objectivity and integrity. To date, assessments falsely claim to have complied with these provisions of the IQA based on supposed compliance by the more than 700 authors

Commented [RS13]: I don't understand this. The NCAs include all kinds of (supposed) changes, and if anything they IGNORE global effects, and instead address climate change effects in just the U.S.

Commented [RS14]: The NCAs already cover most of these.

Commented [TF15]: From EO14303: "agencies have used Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 to assess the potential effects of climate change in a "higher" warming scenario. RCP 8.5 is a worst-case scenario based on highly unlikely assumptions like end-of-century coal use exceeding estimates of recoverable coal reserves. Scientists have warned that presenting RCP 8.5 as a likely outcome is misleading."

Commented [TF16]: Should probably mention and spell this out earlier in the document

Commented [RS17]: Future warming depends upon emissions scenarios PLUS climate model sensitivity, which hasn't been discussed yet.

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DOJ_00099976

of the assessment who were tasked with evaluating their sources of information using a decision tree and IQA questionnaire. The public has never been provided with these evaluations.

The new Committee should consider making all prior (self-assessment) evaluations publicly available. If the Committee is unable to find these evaluations, the public should be informed the federal government has no (or incomplete) records of these evaluations.

Commented [RS18]: This seems out of place

E. Is This a New Reform Topic?

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The next assessment must use proper language to accurately inform decisionmakers and the public. To date, the assessments use inconsistent outcome metrics and do not use risk assessment terms consistent with established practice, resulting in unlikely findings, and non-compliance with the GCRA and the IQA. A new assessment should use consistent definitions of "risk", "hazard", "vulnerability", "consequences" and "impacts." "Risk" should be the probability-weighted combination of "hazard" (hazard identification and dose-response) and "exposure" (exposure assessment). To date, the assessments have portrayed hazards as actual exposures.

~~C.~~F. Address both positive and negative changes

To date, the global change report has failed to be an objective piece of written communication. The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Committee must follow the statute and seek information on "changes," meaning both positive and negative trends.

The next assessment shall include potential costs and benefits of various global changes and discuss them in light of larger domestic and global trends. For example, the impacts of GHG emissions over the next 25 or 100 years on agriculture must include an assessment of actual trends in agriculture, which show a net increase in food production globally and in the US. GHG emissions have many nuances effects including the fertilization effect of carbon dioxide on plants, not just warming impacts.

~~D.~~G. Restructure committees and replace key personnel

To date, the global change report has failed to follow the principles of objectivity and to comply with the statute. These failures can be attributed, in part, to the choice of lead authors creating the report. The authorship of the NCAs has increased dramatically since NCA1 (112 authors) to NCA5 (over 500 authors). This is the direct result of at least two problems: (1) large governmental research budgets funding a marching army of climate researchers, and (2) overly sensitive global climate models that produce an endless source of alarming future climate changes in response to unrealistic future CO_2 concentrations in the atmosphere.

This bloat in NCA authorship, as well as in various steering committees, expert advisory panels, and review boards must be curtailed. To follow the GCRA and EO14303, USGCRP will insist on a careful selection of leadership for a ~~brand~~ new report amongst candidates who have a track record of scientific integrity and who lack personal or professional conflicts of interest with regards to the global change report and its potential policy implications.

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For example, the choice of authors such as Zeke Hausfather of Stripe, Inc., a business that profits from carbon offset mandates, and Katherine Hayhoe, a leader of the environmental political advocacy group Nature Conservancy, are highly concerning from both a financial conflict of interest and ideological perspective.

In addition to questionable authors, there have been questionable reviewers. For example, the 2021 National Academies report titled "Global Change Research Needs and Opportunities for 2022-2031" included contributors who are advocates for lawsuits against energy companies.[17] Kristie Ebi, vice chair and curriculum advisor for the Climate Judiciary Project, promotes climate activism by judges.

USGCRP will appoint lead authors of the new report who have an exceptionally strong track record of scientific integrity and objectivity. These authors shall be appointed by a combination of (1) a new Request for Proposals for candidates and choosing among those who respond and (2) a top-down approach wherein the members of the Committee nominate potential authors and then, with the approval of the OSTP, the USGCRP director contacts them and engages them on a work agreement.

[17] See here: [HYPERLINK "https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26055/global-change-research-needs-and-opportunities-for-2022-2031" \h]

DOJ_00099978

V. Conclusion

The assessments undertaken so far under the GCRA fail to satisfy the requirements of that statute. They also cannot comply with EO14303 because they include implausible future emissions scenarios. USGCRP hereby rejects NCA 5 and previous assessments and initiates a new process for completing a National Global Change Assessment that will follow the GCRA and advance the gold standard science required by EO14303.

DOJ_00099979

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin
Cc: Judith Curry; Ross McKitrick; John Christy; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?
Attachments: Reforming the NCA process-[RS edits].docx

Attached find Travis' original draft with some of my suggestions added.

I'm dealing with family health issues today, which are always in flux, so I'm 50/50 for joining the meeting.

-Roy

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:32 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Hi all,

I agree with Steve that we have a direct line to NCA reform. Please see the attached document, which I compiled with some help. If you want to hear the details behind the assignment, I suggest we have a video meeting soon (best time for me would be 2 pm ET tomorrow). The takeaway is that we should draft this with a future director of the USGCRP in mind as the author.

Please feel free to put this in Dropbox if that's helpful. I want to make sure you all have an opportunity to chime in. My best guess as to a deadline for submitting this to the folks who might issue it is June 16. The biggest lift remaining, as I see it, is to map the elements of the DOE report to the right places in this draft. Please don't be shy about referencing the DOE report!

Best,
Travis

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:28 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

> I think OSTP is quite open to suggestions.
>
> One thing that needs to change is to restore the focus to the science.
>
> NCA5 assumes the science is settled, and so gives it pretty short shrift. Instead they concentrate on impacts, equity, etc.
>
> But what we've written shows the science is far from settled.
> So NCA needs to get back to basics.

DOJ_00099980

Steven E. Koonin

On May 29, 2025, at 18:07, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Your thoughts on our group making a pre-emptive unofficial recommendation on what should be in the next NCA and how the process should proceed? or is there some infrastructure on this that is already underway (i'm out of the loop). Some pre-emptive common sense might be useful

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:20 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I had a first-hand exposure to the NASEM process when I chaired their Divisional Committee for Engineering and Physical Sciences (DEPSCOM) for six years. We oversaw the commissioning, execution, and publication of (I'd guess) more than 100 reports during that time. They were all quite well done, but none of them concerned climate science.

NASEM on climate was an entirely different matter. I got stonewalled when I tried to complain about it to the management. And friends who were on climate-related studies have some horror stories to tell.

I'd hope that if we do a critique of NCA5, we'll also comment on the NASEM role. They really dropped the ball.

SEK

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:53 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Without even reading the NASEM report I assume it's useless. The problem is they draw experts from govt agencies and universities. That crowd knows that the NCA serves a partisan purpose so they'll pull their punches to prevent giving fodder to the enemies of the movement.
The data show universities are about 95/5 dems/gop and not only that, but among the dems the party identification is "strong" versus mostly "weak" or "leans" among gop. So draw a random sample from academia (ensuring a "wide range" of views blah blah blah) and you end up with left and further left. Up until recently we had to go along with the illusion that expert panels can be relied upon to provide balanced scientific advice but the obvious bias of the IPCC and NCA, among others (CDC, WHO etc) have killed that expectation. They let themselves be colonized by the left and now they've lost any claim on public trust.

RPJr posted this data from a recent UChicago survey

<image001.png>

Almost 50% of republicans (and 30% of independents) now view ivy league universities not just as useless but as their enemies. The antagonism is fully deserved. The NASEM needs to

commission a report explaining why the universities became such one-sided intolerant monocultures and what can be done to fix it, and until they tackle that issue they too deserve the DOGE treatment.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 10:09 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

> I've downloaded the report (https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/) There's very little of the foundational science in its 1834 pages(!) that's amenable to serious scientific critique.
>
> I also attach the NASEM review of the NCA5 draft, as well as the authors' responses to that review.
>
> And here's a link to the "gold standard" EO: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/ . A reminder that its criteria are:
>
> (i) reproducible;
> (ii) transparent;
> (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
> (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
> (v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
> (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
> (vii) subject to unbiased peer review;
> (viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
> (ix) without conflicts of interest.
>
> SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

This mirrors the word usage from the briefing we received from the head of NCA5.

John C.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:56 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

> I guess people used to the NCA genre are going to find our report totally off-topic.
>
> On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:01 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
>
> > I did keyword counts in NCA5, and got the following results:
> >
> > **Mentions of RCP/SSP Scenarios (other than definitions):**

RCP8.5/SSP5-8.5: 105 (53%)
RCP6.0/SSP3-7.0: 8 (4%)
RCP4.5/SSP2-4.5: 66 (33%)
RCP2.6/SSP1-2.6: 19 (10%)

Social/Societal keywords
Indigenous/Tribes/Tribal: 1,679
Culture/Culturally: 854
Equity/Equitable: 572
Sustainable: 295
Inequality/Unequal: 201
Racism/Racial: 153
Low-Income: 105
Injustice: 94
Communities of Color: 67
Minorities: 37

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http://www.cfanclimate.net

Summary of Errors in the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) and Proposal to Reform the NCA Process

Commented [TF1]: Should this be drafted as a proposed rulemaking?

I. Executive Summary

The fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) fails to meet the statutory requirements of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA)[1] and violates Executive Order 14303, "Restoring Gold Standard Science" (EO14303).[2] NCA 5 must be replaced by an objective, science-based National Global Change Assessment that complies with the GCRA and EO14303.

Commented [TF2]: Do all NCAs so far rely to some degree on RCP 8.5? We could go further here and find that no prior NCA complies with the Executive Order

Commented [RS3R2]: No, but the use of a range of emissions scenarios go back to NCA1. I think it's best to stick to the last 1-2 NCAs which represent the current state-of-the-art.

Under the GCRA's terms, the USGCRP must issue periodic assessments to update policymakers on a variety of global changes. To fulfill its statutory mission to "describe and understand" the Earth's systems and human impacts on them, such a report should be ~~comprehensive,~~ objective, ~~and precise~~based upon realistic assumptions, include societal benefits of modest levels of warming, and account for human adaptation. In recent years, however, USGCRP assessments have ~~become climate-focused documents that serve to~~ increasingly served to justify predetermined policy and societal actions.

Commented [RS4]: My changes here are meant to distinguish our approach from that of previous NCAs: I think hundreds of previous authors would object to the inference they were not comprehensive, or lacked scientific integrity.

Compliance with the GCRA and EO14303 requires a new, revamped National Global Change Assessment authored by scientists ~~with a track record of scientific integrity~~ through a process that prioritizes scientific rigor over issues of social justice. It ~~will also~~ requires a new commitment to descriptive science rather than prescriptive advocacy. This document proposes ___ key reforms to overhaul the upcoming NCA6 in line with directives from EO14303 and the GCRA's statutory mandate:

~~Reform 1. Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes~~

Commented [RS5]: Renaming the report should not be considered a top reform

Reform 12: Reject implausible or outlier scenarios and properly address uncertainties

Reform 23: Address both positive and negative changes

~~Reform 4. Restructure committees and replace key personnel~~

Commented [RS6]: I think reforms should stick to the science problems of the NCAs, not bureaucracy.

[expand?]

Comments on this proposed rule are due within XX days of publication in the Federal Register.

[1] [HYPERLINK "https://www.globalchange.gov/about-us/legal-mandate"]
[2] [HYPERLINK "https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09802/restoring-gold-standard-science"]

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DOJ_00099985

II. ~~Introduction:~~ The Need for Reform

~~Since its inception, the USGCRP's assessments have fallen short of their statutory charge under the GCRA "to improve understanding of global change" and inform policymakers in the United States.~~ Congress intended for USGCRP to provide a holistic report on global change to help policymakers make objective policy decisions, but the NCA has served instead as a political tool for advancing an interventionist climate policy agenda while introducing selection biases in scientific data. As such, it has fallen short of the intended goals of the GCRA.

Despite the NCA's failure to comply with the GCRA, it holds immense power. First, ideological activists frequently cite the NCA in climate litigation since recent NCAs rely upon highly improbably future CO_2 emissions scenarios and global climate models that produce too much warming even with realistic CO_2 assumptions, ~~because it supports their arguments and is developed by 700+ academic [authors]~~ Second, the NCA provides a foundation for the 2009 Endangerment Finding that any greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pose a significant threat to public health and welfare.[3] The regulatory regime enabled by the Endangerment Finding has been one of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) most impactful tools in implementing energy and environmental policy in the United States since 2009.[4] Third, numerous federal and state policymakers point to the NCA to justify policies that increase energy costs for U.S. consumers and manufacturers, limit economic growth, and add costs that disproportionately harm lower-income Americans.[5] Those downsides of energy policies are seldom discussed, even though their costs will fall on U.S. citizens.

Commented [RS7]: 500+ authors. Also, many would view the large number of authors of evidence of increasingly widespread consensus (NCA1 had 112 authors, I counted)

The first Trump administration declined to correct course on the NCA. However, we find good reason to correct course today, particularly considering EO14303 and its admonition to return to gold standard science, including using realistic future emissions scenarios—rather than Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 (RCP 8.5)—to assess the potential effects of climate change. We also find the May 2025 report commissioned by the Secretary of Energy, "Impacts of Carbon Dioxide Emissions on the U.S. Climate," to offer compelling reasons to revisit many of the conclusions in NCA 5 that were presented as incontrovertible.

The sixth National Climate Assessment (NCA 6) was under development until ____, scheduled for release in late 2027 or early 2028. With this rulemaking, we ensure compliance with GCRA and EO14303 and announce our intent to issue the new "National Global Change Assessment" (NGCA 1) on or around the same timeline as the proposed NCA 6.

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[3] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a"]

[4] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-clean-air-act-0" \h] [add a list of major rules that rely on the endangerment finding?]

[5] Need some examples.

DOJ_00099986

III. Specification of Errors in NCA 5 and Previous Reports

Commented [TF8]: Please feel free to tee off on this section. I pasted John's initial thoughts here

Past global change reports—which so far have been called National Climate Assessments—have repeatedly failed on ___ counts to comply with OCRA and/or EO14303. Specifically,

From JC:

Rejection of NCA5 based on significant problems. DoE-CR = Department of Energy Climate Report May 2025.

NCA5 failed to verify climate model output as fit-for-purpose. DoE-CR Ch4,5.

NCA5 relied on model output based on an implausible emissions scenario. DoE-CR Ch4,5

NCA5 misrepresented changes in extreme weather events by using short data records and improper mathematical analyses. DoE-CR Ch6.

NCA5 failed to investigate the full range of impacts, especially the positive impacts, of adding CO2 to the atmosphere while overstating the negative impacts. DoE-CR Ch1,2,3,9,11.

NCA5 failed to perform a comprehensive analysis of economic impacts of enhanced atmospheric CO2. DoE-CR Ch9-12.

NCA5 failed to perform comprehensive analyses (using the scientific method) regarding attribution of those changes that have been observed. DoE-CR Ch8.

A. The NCA ignores non-climate changes

Commented [RS9]: I would put as the first error the reliance on extremely unlikely CO2 emissions scenarios; RCP/SSP 8.5 is mentioned more than all other scenarios combined in NCA5.

The NCA is tasked with covering the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity and their respective long-term changes over 25 and 100 years.

Commented [RS10]: I'm not an expert on the NCAs, but from what I've seen they do cover most if not all of the list in this paragraph.

Instead the NCA puts a narrow focus on climate and, for any given area of global change, only discusses the climate change-related impacts on that area.

B. The NCA ignores positive changes

Even within its narrow focus of climate, the NCA should cover positive and negative climate changes. Instead, the NCA focuses entirely on negative climate changes and completely ignores positive climate changes.[6]

The NCA analyzes increases in danger potential from extreme weather with more warming, but ignores the far more massive decline in weather-related death rates at the national and global scale and the

[6] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]

DOJ_00099988

potential for growing wealth and technological advancements to make us even safer from climate and extreme weather.[7]

The NCA emphasizes a minor projected increase in heat-related deaths, but ignores the larger projected decrease in cold-related deaths thanks to warming and the preventability of temperature-related deaths in a wealthier and more technologically advanced US and global economy.[8]

The NCA emphasizes potential for negative impacts on agriculture thanks to climate change, but ignores the far larger projected increase in agricultural productivity over the next century thanks to technological progress—which far outweighs the projected negative impacts even in high emissions scenarios.[9]

More broadly, the NCA completely fails to make any mention of the massive increase in climate resilience globally thanks to heating, A/C, irrigation systems, storm warning systems, infrastructure, and other such technology—despite the fact that these measures decreased the decadal climate-related disaster death rate by an incredible 98% between 1920 and 2020, which required the historical use of fossil fuels and will continue to require fossil fuel use for the foreseeable future.[10]

---

[7] [HYPERLINK "https://energytalkingpoints.com/3-undeniable-facts-about-climate-for-cop29/" \h]

[8] [HYPERLINK "https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00081-4/fulltext" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://financialpost.com/opinion/bjorn-lomborg-climate-change-and-deaths-from-extreme-heat-and-cold" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h]

[9] [HYPERLINK "https://thebreakthrough.org/issues/food-agriculture-environment/the-ipcc-report-on-the-impacts-of-climate-change-is-depressing" \h]

[10] For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought, flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 per year during the 2010s.

Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [HYPERLINK "http://www.emdat.be" \h] (D. Guha-Sapir).

Population estimates for the 1920s from the [HYPERLINK "https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/releases/maddison-database-2010" \h], the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at University of Groningen. For years not shown, the population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.

Population estimates for the 2010s come from [HYPERLINK "https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL" \h].

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C. The NCA amplifies negative changes

Commented [RS11]: I think this should be the first point.

When considering negative changes, the NCA should be precise. Instead, the NCA repeatedly exaggerates and fabricates negative climate changes.

Example: The NCA exaggerates projected climate harms using highly implausible emissions scenarios like RCP8.5.

The NCA uncritically employs a set of extremely implausible to impossible scenarios (e.g., RCP8.5/SSP3-7.0) in the projection of future outcomes, and treats them as equally plausible to other scenarios. Even though mainstream climatology views these scenarios and their associated projected outcomes—such as sea level rises of over 2 meters by the year 2100—to be incredibly unlikely, the NCA describes these scenarios as all being plausible futures and even worth emphasizing.

For example, the NCA5 mentions that "mass fish die-offs from extreme summertime heat are projected to double by midcentury in northern temperate lakes under a very high scenario (RCP8.5)." No other outcome under a different scenario is mentioned in this context, despite this being an incredibly unlikely to impossible scenario. And there is no mention of the uncertainties involved in such an extreme and unlikely projection.[11]

Another example comes from the electricity sector. NCA5 states that "Annual expenditures on electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure *could* rise up to 25% by 2090 under a very high scenario (RCP8.5) compared to a scenario without climate change." (emphasis added) There is no attempt to assess the likelihood of this outcome, no mention of any other more realistic scenario, no acknowledgement that a scenario without climate change is impossible and not a sound baseline for comparison. There is also no mention that the promoted climate policies in NCA5—increasing reliance on green electricity from solar and wind—have already and would continue to massively increase the cost of such infrastructure, while some simple adaptation measures—like burying transmission lines—could likely nullify the potential impacts of extreme weather on such infrastructure by the late 21st century.[12]

Example: The NCA exaggerates harms from extreme weather events using the pseudoscientific "billion-dollar disaster" statistic.

The NCA uncritically cites the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's "billion-dollar disasters" statistic, which counts the number of natural disasters in the U.S. each year that cause at least $1 billion in damages, as evidence that "[h]armful impacts from more frequent and severe extremes are increasing across the country"—despite the inadequacy of disaster cost statistics to derive extreme weather trends because of the multiple factors—like economic growth and disproportionately increasing populations in vulnerable spots—involved, and the enormous methodological and data collection flaws in NOAA's product, which violate basic principles of scientific integrity and transparency.[13]

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[11] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[12] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[13] [HYPERLINK "https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://doi.org/10.1038/s44304-024-00011-0" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-are-a-national?utm_source=publication-search" \h]

NOAA's billion dollar disaster statistic represents an outlier finding in defiance of available quality scientific publications and the IPCC, which finds that most human impacts on climate extremes like storms and floods are yet undetected and will likely remain so for the rest of the century, even assuming very high emission scenarios.[14]

Based on the scientific literature, disaster cost trends are flat and can mostly or even completely be explained by increases in demographic trends and increasing concentrations of wealth in vulnerable areas like coastlines, rendering the NCA's claims at minimum a major exaggeration of the truth.[15]

The NCA fails to acknowledge uncertainty.

Despite the statute's mandate that USGCRP's report "discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings," the NCA completely fails to identify the extremely high levels of uncertainty associated with these future outcomes.

[expand]

Additional examples may be found in the public comment and response record.[16]

Commented [TF12]: Does anyone want to comb through the record and find some of the more egregious examples?

[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-not-the" \h]
[14] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/what-the-ipcc-actually-says-about?utm_source=publication-search" \h]
[15] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/climate-change-is-showing-its-claws" \h]
[16] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA5_Public-Comments-Author-Responses-ZOD.pdf" \h]

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IV. Reforms to the USGCRP

A. Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes

To date, the global change report has failed to comply with the GCRA because it is not comprehensive. The report is renamed the "National Global Change Assessment" and must address "global change" as it is defined in the statute. Past reports including NCA5 have interpreted the term to mean something like "climate change and its related global effects." But while "global change" includes climate change, it is not limited to it. We will stake out a broader scope for the report, which will include important trends and help to close relevant knowledge gaps about potentially important topics, as intended by Congress.

In particular, the revamped assessment will highlight trends in things like [please add items as necessary] energy production/use, known reserves, deaths from natural disaster and temperature exposure, human health, agricultural production, total/coastal populations, criteria pollutant emissions, forest cover, solar insolation, potable water, etc.

B. Reject unrealistic scenarios and address uncertainties

The next assessment shall not rely on any implausible emissions scenarios. For example the next assessment must not include any references to UN IPCC report outcomes or similarly flawed analyses that are based on SSP3-7.0 or RCP8.5, which are now known to involve unrealistically high future CO_2 emissions.

The next assessment shall examine the plausibility and limitations of scenarios describing the potential future under global changes and limit its analysis to scenarios that are at least within the likely range of possible developments. For climate scenarios this should mean a limit to those futures that feature no more than 3°C of warming above preindustrial levels.

C. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment shall acknowledge uncertainty about future changes and the potential of humans to adapt to or mitigate negative impacts through technological advancements. The goal is to identify key drivers of human well-being, including economic prosperity and freedom of action to optimize these factors on the individual, national, and global level.

D. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment must be regarded as a "highly influential scientific assessment" under the Information Quality Act (IQA), subjecting its review to additional obligations, including: reproducibility, transparency, utility, traceability, objectivity and integrity. To date, assessments falsely claim to have complied with these provisions of the IQA based on supposed compliance by the more than 700 authors of the assessment who were tasked with evaluating their sources of information using a decision tree and IQA questionnaire. The public has never been provided with these evaluations.

Commented [RS13]: I don't understand this. The NCAs include all kinds of (supposed) changes, and if anything they IGNORE global effects, and instead address climate change effects in just the U.S.

Commented [RS14]: The NCAs already cover most of these.

Commented [TF15]: From EO14303: "agencies have used Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 to assess the potential effects of climate change in a "higher" warming scenario. RCP 8.5 is a worst-case scenario based on highly unlikely assumptions like end-of-century coal use exceeding estimates of recoverable coal reserves. Scientists have warned that presenting RCP 8.5 as a likely outcome is misleading."

Commented [TF16]: Should probably mention and spell this out earlier in the document

Commented [RS17]: Future warming depends upon emissions scenarios PLUS climate model sensitivity, which hasn't been discussed yet.

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The new Committee should consider making all prior (self-assessment) evaluations publicly available. If the Committee is unable to find these evaluations, the public should be informed the federal government has no (or incomplete) records of these evaluations.

Commented [RS18]: This seems out of place

E. Is This a New Reform Topic?

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The next assessment must use proper language to accurately inform decisionmakers and the public. To date, the assessments use inconsistent outcome metrics and do not use risk assessment terms consistent with established practice, resulting in unlikely findings, and non-compliance with the GCRA and the IQA. A new assessment should use consistent definitions of "risk", "hazard", "vulnerability", "consequences" and "impacts." "Risk" should be the probability-weighted combination of "hazard" (hazard identification and dose-response) and "exposure" (exposure assessment). To date, the assessments have portrayed hazards as actual exposures.

~~C.~~ F. Address both positive and negative changes

To date, the global change report has failed to be an objective piece of written communication. The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Committee must follow the statute and seek information on "changes," meaning both positive and negative trends.

The next assessment shall include potential costs and benefits of various global changes and discuss them in light of larger domestic and global trends. For example, the impacts of GHG emissions over the next 25 or 100 years on agriculture must include an assessment of actual trends in agriculture, which show a net increase in food production globally and in the US. GHG emissions have many nuances effects including the fertilization effect of carbon dioxide on plants, not just warming impacts.

~~D.~~ G. Restructure committees and replace key personnel

To date, the global change report has failed to follow the principles of objectivity and to comply with the statute. These failures can be attributed, in part, to the choice of lead authors creating the report. The authorship of the NCAs has increased dramatically since NCA1 (112 authors) to NCA5 (over 500 authors). This is the direct result of at least two problems: (1) large governmental research budgets funding a marching army of climate researchers, and (2) overly sensitive global climate models that produce an endless source of alarming future climate changes in response to unrealistic future CO_2 concentrations in the atmosphere.

This bloat in NCA authorship, as well as in various steering committees, expert advisory panels, and review boards must be curtailed. To follow the GCRA and EO14303, USGCRP will insist on a careful selection of leadership for a ~~brand~~ new report amongst candidates who have a track record of scientific integrity and who lack personal or professional conflicts of interest with regards to the global change report and its potential policy implications.

For example, the choice of authors such as Zeke Hausfather of Stripe, Inc., a business that profits from carbon offset mandates, and Katherine Hayhoe, a leader of the environmental political advocacy group Nature Conservancy, are highly concerning from both a financial conflict of interest and ideological perspective.

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In addition to questionable authors, there have been questionable reviewers. For example, the 2021 National Academies report titled "Global Change Research Needs and Opportunities for 2022-2031" included contributors who are advocates for lawsuits against energy companies.[17] Kristie Ebi, vice chair and curriculum advisor for the Climate Judiciary Project, promotes climate activism by judges.

USGCRP will appoint lead authors of the new report who have an exceptionally strong track record of scientific integrity and objectivity. These authors shall be appointed by a combination of (1) a new Request for Proposals for candidates and choosing among those who respond and (2) a top-down approach wherein the members of the Committee nominate potential authors and then, with the approval of the OSTP, the USGCRP director contacts them and engages them on a work agreement.

[17] See here: [HYPERLINK "https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26055/global-change-research-needs-and-opportunities-for-2022-2031" \h]

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V. Conclusion

The assessments undertaken so far under the GCRA fail to satisfy the requirements of that statute. They also cannot comply with EO14303 because they include implausible future emissions scenarios. USGCRP hereby rejects NCA 5 and previous assessments and initiates a new process for completing a National Global Change Assessment that will follow the GCRA and advance the gold standard science required by EO14303.

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PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL
PRE-DECISIONAL ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

On May 23, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order, "Restoring Gold Standard Science," in which he identified and addressed a national crisis of faith in the scientific community—and especially scientific research and messaging originating from the government. To help repair the damage caused by the last Administration's breach of public trust, the President directed the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy ("OSTP") to work with relevant agencies to issue guidance to ensure this Administration conducts and promotes only "Gold Standard Science." Now, before relying on scientific evidence, agencies must first ensure that the underlying research and its conclusions are: (i) reproducible; (ii) transparent; (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty; (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary; (v) skeptical of their findings and assumptions; (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses; (vii) subject to unbiased peer review; (viii) accepting of negative results of positive outcomes; and (ix) without conflicts of interest. We and the scientific community owe the American public no less.

By demanding objective inquiry, the Gold Standard Executive Order enacts as official policy a ground truth already pursued by this Administration and its leadership. Indeed, in March 2025, Christopher Wright, the Secretary of the Department of Energy ("DOE"), assembled an independent team of [climate ~~scientists~~] experts ("DOE Climate Working Group" or "CWG") to write a report on issues in climate science, with an emphasis on the impact of carbon dioxide emissions. On May 28, 2025 the CWG delivered its preliminary report ("DOE 2025 CWG Report") raising grave concerns about discrepancies between the body of peer-reviewed climatology research and the last Administration's messaging on anthropogenic climate change, carbon dioxide emissions, and responsive policy action.

Commented [SK1]: Actually only one economist, so better to just say scientists

~~Worse, a~~After reviewing the DOE 2025 CWG Report, I ~~fear that the last Administration may have politicized the analysis~~ judge that an assessment of the Fifth National Climate Assessment ("NCA5"), ~~rather than adhering to longstanding scientific guidelines~~ is warranted. By order of Congress, the United States Global Change Research Program ("USGCRP") publishes a quadrennial National Climate Assessment that ~~must~~:

> (1) integrate[s], evaluate[s], and interpret[s] the findings of the [USGCRP] Program and discuss[es] the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings; (2) analyze[s] the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity; and (3) analyze[s] current trends in global change, both human-inducted and natural, and project[s] major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.

15 U.S.C. 2936. Notwithstanding Congress's command, the ~~prior Administration promulgated NCA5, a dense and voluminous document that assumes without caveat~~

~~complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to greenhouse gas emissions~~NCA5 does not communicate relevant scientific complexities and uncertainties as reported in the DOE 2025 CWG Report nor does it provide as comprehensive a discussion of current effects and trends. ~~But as the DOE 2025 CWG Report clarifies, the complex science of climate change, and especially the impact of carbon dioxide emissions, remains contested.~~

As the Gold Standard Science Executive Order indicates, this Administration intends to restore public trust by balancing policy interests against objective scientific inquiry and competing viewpoints. Science must remain scientific, not political. We greatly appreciate Secretary Wright's leadership in bringing to light the glaring biases in scientific assessments that policymakers use to craft rules and regulations that shape the lives for more than 320 million of our fellow citizens. In that same spirit, and to guide ~~federal[INSERT DEPARTMENT]~~ policy making, and consistent with the Gold Standard Science Executive Order, I now request that, by ~~[INSERT DATE July 11]~~ the DOE's CWG prepare an additional report ~~on assessing~~ **whether NCA5** ~~can serve as a sound scientific basis for federal climate and energy policy. In the process, the CWG should focus on:~~ **(1)** ~~whether NCA5~~ **complied with the USGCRP's statutory obligation**, ~~to "integrate[], "evaluate[], and interpret[] . . . the scientific uncertainties associated with" USGCRP's findings; and~~ **(2)** ~~whether NCA5~~ **adheres to the core**, ~~uncontroversial scientific tenants~~ **tenets of Gold Standard Science**, and (3) can suitably inform federal climate and energy policy.

[INSERT AUTHOR]

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From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 8:43 PM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: Roy Spencer; Ross McKitrick; Judith Curry; Seth Cohen; Joshua Loucks; Travis Fisher
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

OK by me

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2025, at 9:19 AM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

And I'm OK with it as well.

SEK

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Loucks, Joshua <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov>; Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

I like it.
-Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Date: 6/16/25 10:42 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: "Cohen, Seth" <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>, "Loucks, Joshua" <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov>, "Fisher, Travis" <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>, climateman60@gmail.com, steven.koonin@gmail.com, roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

Here's a suggested re-draft.

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 1:57 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

> This following statement is ambiguous and isn't really correct. The report uses the word consensus not that often, and many conclusions are with medium and high consensus (denoting relatively low values of consensus). This statement (or something similar) would not be included in our assessment of the NCA5:
>
> "assumes without caveat complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to greenhouse gas emissions".

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

> Can you elaborate on how it is prejudicial?
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2025 9:59 AM
> **To:** Loucks, Joshua <joshua.loucks@hq.doe.gov>
> **Cc:** Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; climateman60@gmail.com <climateman60@gmail.com>; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; steven.koonin@gmail.com <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
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> Joshua, I strongly recommend that this text be deleted. It is prejudicial to our assessment.
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> ~~15 U.S.C. 2936. Notwithstanding Congress's command, the prior Administration promulgated NCA5, a dense and voluminous document that assumes without caveat complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to greenhouse gas emissions. But as the DOE 2025 CWG Report clarifies, the complex science of climate change, and especially the impact of carbon dioxide emissions, remains contested.~~

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 9:52 AM Loucks, Joshua <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

> Hi All,
>
> Attached is a letter for everyone's review. Feel free to reach out to Travis, Seth, or I if you have any comments.

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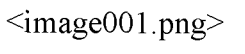
Thank you,



Joshua L. Loucks

Special Assistant

The Office of the Deputy Secretary

Office: (204) 961-2098

Mobile: (518) 419-5327

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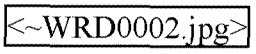

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
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http://www.cfanclimate.net

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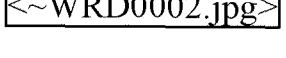

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CC: 'Cohen, Seth' [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]; 'Loucks, Joshua' [Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov]; 'Fisher, Travis' [travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov]; climateman60@gmail.com
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Attachments: ~WRD0002.jpg; image001.png

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-Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Date: 6/16/25 10:42 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: "Cohen, Seth" <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>, "Loucks, Joshua" <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov>, "Fisher, Travis" <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>, climateman60@gmail.com, steven.koonin@gmail.com, roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

Here's a suggested re-draft.

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 1:57 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
> This following statement is ambiguous and isn't really correct. The report uses the word consensus not that often, and many conclusions are with medium and high consensus (denoting relatively low values of consensus). This statement (or something similar) would not be included in our assessment of the NCA5:
>
> "assumes without caveat complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to greenhouse gas emissions".

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov> wrote:
> Can you elaborate on how it is prejudicial?

> **From:** Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2025 9:59 AM
> **To:** Loucks, Joshua <joshua.loucks@hq.doe.gov>
> **Cc:** Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; climateman60@gmail.com <climateman60@gmail.com>;

ross.mckitrick@gmail.com <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; steven.koonin@gmail.com <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

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Hi All,

Attached is a letter for everyone's review. Feel free to reach out to Travis, Seth, or I if you have any comments.

Thank you,

Joshua L. Loucks

Special Assistant

The Office of the Deputy Secretary

Office: (204) 961-2098

Mobile: (518) 419-5327

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http://www.cfanclimate.net

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http://www.cfanclimate.net

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 12:30 PM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua; Fisher, Travis; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

I like this version much better. One suggested word change (minor). Replace "merited" with "warranted"

On Mon, Jun 16, 2025 at 8:38 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
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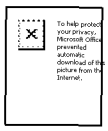

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From: Ross McKitrick [ross.mckitrick@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/16/2025 3:38:33 PM
To: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]
CC: Cohen, Seth [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]; Loucks, Joshua [Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov]; Fisher, Travis [travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov]; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter
Attachments: 6-10-25 - USGCRP Framing Doc - DRAFT [RM 06-16].docx

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PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL
PRE-DECISIONAL ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

On May 23, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order, "Restoring Gold Standard Science," in which he identified and addressed a national crisis of faith in the scientific community—and especially scientific research and messaging originating from the government. To help repair the damage caused by the last Administration's breach of public trust, the President directed the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy ("OSTP") to work with relevant agencies to issue guidance to ensure this Administration conducts and promotes only "Gold Standard Science." Now, before relying on scientific evidence, agencies must first ensure that the underlying research and its conclusions are: (i) reproducible; (ii) transparent; (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty; (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary; (v) skeptical of their findings and assumptions; (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses; (vii) subject to unbiased peer review; (viii) accepting of negative results of positive outcomes; and (ix) without conflicts of interest. We and the scientific community owe the American public no less.

By demanding objective inquiry, the Gold Standard Executive Order enacts as official policy a ground truth already pursued by this Administration and its leadership. Indeed, in March 2025, Christopher Wright, the Secretary of the Department of Energy ("DOE"), assembled an independent team of climate ~~scientists~~ experts ("DOE Climate Working Group" or "CWG") to write a report on issues in climate science, with an emphasis on the impact of carbon dioxide emissions. On May 28, 2025 the CWG delivered its preliminary report ("DOE 2025 CWG Report") raising grave concerns about discrepancies between the body of peer-reviewed climatology research and the last Administration's messaging on anthropogenic climate change, carbon dioxide emissions, and responsive policy action.

Commented [SK1]: Actually only one economist, so better to just say scientists

~~Worse, a~~After reviewing the DOE 2025 CWG Report, I ~~fear that the last Administration may have politicized the analysis in~~judge that an assessment of the Fifth National Climate Assessment ("NCA5") ~~rather than adhering to longstanding scientific guidelines~~ is merited. By order of Congress, the United States Global Change Research Program ("USGCRP") publishes a quadrennial National Climate Assessment that must:

> (1) integrate[], evaluate[], and interpret[] the findings of the [USGCRP] Program and discuss[] the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings; (2) analyze[] the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity; and (3) analyze[] current trends in global change, both human-inducted and natural, and project[] major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.

15 U.S.C. 2936. Notwithstanding Congress's command, the ~~prior Administration promulgated NCA5, a dense and voluminous document that assumes without caveat complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to~~

~~greenhouse gas emissions~~NCA5 does not communicate relevant scientific complexities and uncertainties as reported in the DOE 2025 CWG Report nor does it provide as comprehensive a discussion of current effects and trends. ~~But as the DOE 2025 CWG Report clarifies, the complex science of climate change, and especially the impact of carbon dioxide emissions, remains contested.~~

As the Gold Standard Science Executive Order indicates, this Administration intends to restore public trust by balancing policy interests against objective scientific inquiry and competing viewpoints. Science must remain scientific, not political. We greatly appreciate Secretary Wright's leadership in bringing to light the glaring biases in scientific assessments that policymakers use to craft rules and regulations that shape the lives for more than 320 million of our fellow citizens. In that same spirit, and to guide [INSERT DEPARTMENT] policy making, and consistent with the Gold Standard Science Executive Order, I now request that, by [INSERT DATE] the DOE's CWG prepare an additional report on whether NCA5 can serve as a sound scientific basis for federal climate and energy policy. In the process, the CWG should focus on: (1) whether NCA5 complied with the USGCRP's statutory obligation to "integrate[], "evaluate[], and interpret[] . . . the scientific uncertainties associated with" USGCRP's findings; and (2) whether NCA5 adheres to the core, uncontroversial scientific tenants of Gold Standard Science.

[INSERT AUTHOR]

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 1:58 PM
To: Cohen, Seth
Cc: Loucks, Joshua; Fisher, Travis; climateman60@gmail.com; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

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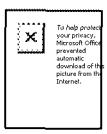

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From: Ross McKitrick [ross.mckitrick@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/13/2025 5:49:12 PM
To: Cohen, Seth [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
CC: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Loucks, Joshua [Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov]; Fisher, Travis [travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov]; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

It reads to me like it states desired conclusions of the assessment.
The tasking letter needs to be as neutral as possible.

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Sent: 6/13/2025 4:59:28 PM
To: Loucks, Joshua [Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov]
CC: Fisher, Travis [travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov]; climateman60@gmail.com; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com; Cohen, Seth [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
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Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 1:48 PM
To: Fisher, Travis
Cc: ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: FW: Update: Technical reviewers

Well this is more along the lines that I expected the reviews to take.

The main comment of substance here relates to the title, i agree with the reviewer here, we should rethink the title. Apart from the title, i don't see much here that would motivate edits/changes

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 10:35 AM Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

> Another round of comments from the Office of Science. It's not clear to me whether Harriet Kung will offer a separate review, but her comments would be the last from the Office of Science.
>
> We only have one of six reviews back from the national labs so far, so brace yourselves for potentially five additional sets of detailed comments.
>
> No other program offices (like public affairs, congressional affairs, etc.) have submitted comments, and I don't expect them to.
>
> I'll keep passing these along as I get them.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
> **Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2025 1:21 PM
> **To:** Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Update: Technical reviewers
>
> Hi Travis,
>
> Thanks for the opportunity to review this document. There are many topics covered; all of which would take much more time to properly review. As such, I've only commented on areas with which I'm most familiar.

I do appreciate the documentation of perceived uncertainties and I hope DOE can make some progress in these areas.

Tris

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

Follow us on social media

Tristram West

[redacted]

Biological and Environmental Research

OFFICE [redacted]

MOBILE [redacted]

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>; West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
Subject: [Not Virus Scanned] RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Hi Dorothy and Tristram,

Attached please find for your review a draft of the DOE's Climate Working Group report. It is password protected and watermarked due to the highly sensitive nature of the material. Please do not distribute this draft. If you decide to broaden your review team, just let me know and I will send the other reviewer(s) a unique copy.

Password: [redacted]

Thank you for reviewing this report on such short notice and under a tight deadline. I sincerely appreciate it.

Best,

Travis

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Ok will do.

Dorothy

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 8:22 AM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: Re: Update: Technical reviewers

Thanks, Dorothy.

Yes, I will guarantee complete anonymity or lab-only attribution on our end, whichever you prefer. I fully understand the sensitivity of the assignment. That said, I will also note that some of the authors' names have already leaked, which was out of my control. But I commit to doing everything within my control to keep reviewers anonymous.

To widen the field, I would suggest you go down the list you provided and stop when you hit a critical mass. Five would be great, but fewer is ok with me—I defer to you on what seems like the right number of technical reviewers. If the experts' willingness and availability limits us to two or three lab reviewers under the tight timeframe, that is ok.

I will get copies of the report to you and Tris this morning. Please do not share it further. If you think of an additional reviewer within your team that you'd like to include, just let me know and I will get them a unique copy.

Thanks so much for your help!

Best,

Travis

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:59 AM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: Update: Technical reviewers

Dear Travis,

I am working on recruiting reviewers, this may not be easy on such short notice.

Of the original list, 1 confirms participation pending he stays anonymous. Two are unavailable. I haven't heard back from the other 2 yet.

I would request that all reviewers remain anonymous or include lab attribution only, so please confirm if that is possible.

Here's a list of some additional possibilities to consider, I suggest that you pick another 5 from this list and we can use whichever we hear back from first, noting that mid-summer many are away on vacation, etc:

- Dave Bader (LLNL; [redacted].gov): https://people.llnl.gov/bader2. expertise in climate and Earth system model development and analysis
- Rich Norby (ORNL; [redacted].gov); Richard J. Norby, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. expert in carbon field studies in ecology
- Peter Thornton (ORNL) https://www.ornl.gov/staff-profile/peter-e-thornton land systems, carbon, modeling and climate

- Allen Fawcett (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/allen-fawcett human-energy-environment interactions
- Ian Kraucunas (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/ian-kraucunas energy and earth system modeling and analysis
- Jae Edmonds (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/jae-edmonds global and regional energy and climate interactions
- Rao Kotamarthi (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/rao-kotamarthi climate impacts, modeling
- Cristina Negri (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/cristina-negri environment and impacts

In addition to myself from BER, please include Tristram West ([redacted].gov) who works with me.

I will be requesting the reviews be sent to you and to me by COB Monday. In addition to providing our own reviews, Tris and I can help collate the reviews by COB Tuesday.

Dorothy

From: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:36 PM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Subject: FW: Technical reviewers

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:10 PM
To: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Coe, Carl (HQ) <carl.coe@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: Technical reviewers

I defer to Carl on any policy calls like this, but I'm inclined to say we can keep their identities private if reviewers request it is a condition of their participation. In other words, I think it should be up to them. In the peer review report, we will probably have to identify some of their credentials, but we can leave PII out of it and refer to each as Reviewer 1, 2, 3, etc.

From: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:04 PM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Coe, Carl <carl.coe@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: Technical reviewers

Travis—confirmed receipt. I've connected with Dorothy after our call – we will be contacting the reviewers as soon as we are able to provide the context and confirm their availability to meet the review timeline.

One question we have is whether the names of the reviewers will be made public – we anticipate this question will likely come up when we contact them.

Thanks,

Harriet

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Coe, Carl (HQ) <carl.coe@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Technical reviewers

Hi Harriet,

Thanks so much for taking the time to talk earlier this afternoon. As I mentioned on our call, we would like to move forward with the following subject matter experts at the labs, plus anyone you and Dorothy identify as relevant subject matter experts within the Office of Science.

1. **Stan Wullschleger** (ORNL;[redacted].gov): https://www.ornl.gov/content/stan-wullschleger. carbon-ecology-climate dynamics
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4. **Michael Wehner** (LBNL; [redacted].gov): Michael Wehner. expertise in extreme events in a changing climate

5. **Bill Collins** (LBNL; [redacted].gov): William Collins | About | Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. expertise in climate and earth system dynamics, modeling, and AI

I am happy to send each of these reviewers a uniquely watermarked PDF of the report once you've had the opportunity to speak with them. Please also extend an open invitation for them (or your staff) to contact me if they have any questions about the process or the early stages of this effort. My personal cell is the best way to reach me: [redacted].

The key things to emphasize are the sensitivity of this process, the importance of their comments in improving the report, and the high priority the Secretary places on this work. I want each reviewer to be as candid as possible in their review, and I simply can't thank them enough for the quick turnaround—we will need all comments by the end of the day on Monday.

Also, I sincerely appreciate your offer to help in compiling the comments and producing the peer review report with me. Please give Dorothy my best wishes too as you both undertake this work on a tight deadline. As I've already told some of my team members, you are my new favorite person at DOE.

The attached PDF is an example of what I will be sending each reviewer individually. Feel free to share it with Dorothy so you both have some context for your calls (but keep a very close hold otherwise).

Thanks again!

Best,

Travis

--

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
http://www.cfanclimate.net

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Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.

****

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2025 8:18 PM
To: Fisher, Travis
Cc: climateman60@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Fw: Update: Technical reviewers

Well this is interesting. I like the suggestion that we list major uncertainties for future research but that seems to be more of a task for the NCA6 recommendtions

On Sun, Jul 20, 2025 at 4:08 PM Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov> wrote:
FYI.

I haven't reviewed these comments yet, just passing them along before I get on a flight back to DC.

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2025 4:44 PM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Travis,

My review is attached. I don't have the technical depth at this point in my career that the Lab scientists do. But my top-level comment is that this report would be really helpful to DOE (and I assume the secretary) if it was more explicit about the biggest scientific uncertainties, where further research is most needed. If the authors could add a brief section listing these and prioritizing these uncertainties, it could be extremely helpful. I suspect this would also make the report more palatable to the science community.

The secretary's remarks could highlight this as a key purpose of the report as well, and I believe this would increase the interest of the audience.

Tris is also doing a review, so he can share his comments separately.

Dorothy

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>; West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
Subject: [Not Virus Scanned] RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Hi Dorothy and Tristram,

Attached please find for your review a draft of the DOE's Climate Working Group report. It is password protected and watermarked due to the highly sensitive nature of the material. Please do not distribute this

draft. If you decide to broaden your review team, just let me know and I will send the other reviewer(s) a unique copy.

Password: [redacted]

Thank you for reviewing this report on such short notice and under a tight deadline. I sincerely appreciate it.

Best,
Travis

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Ok will do.
Dorothy

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 8:22 AM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: Re: Update: Technical reviewers

Thanks, Dorothy.

Yes, I will guarantee complete anonymity or lab-only attribution on our end, whichever you prefer. I fully understand the sensitivity of the assignment. That said, I will also note that some of the authors' names have already leaked, which was out of my control. But I commit to doing everything within my control to keep reviewers anonymous.

To widen the field, I would suggest you go down the list you provided and stop when you hit a critical mass. Five would be great, but fewer is ok with me—I defer to you on what seems like the right number of technical reviewers. If the experts' willingness and availability limits us to two or three lab reviewers under the tight timeframe, that is ok.

I will get copies of the report to you and Tris this morning. Please do not share it further. If you think of an additional reviewer within your team that you'd like to include, just let me know and I will get them a unique copy.

Thanks so much for your help!

Best,
Travis

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
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To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
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Subject: Update: Technical reviewers

Dear Travis,

I am working on recruiting reviewers, this may not be easy on such short notice.

Of the original list, 1 confirms participation pending he stays anonymous. Two are unavailable. I haven't heard back from the other 2 yet.

I would request that all reviewers remain anonymous or include lab attribution only, so please confirm if that is possible.

Here's a list of some additional possibilities to consider, I suggest that you pick another 5 from this list and we can use whichever we hear back from first, noting that mid-summer many are away on vacation, etc:

- Dave Bader (LLNL; [redacted].gov): https://people.llnl.gov/bader2. expertise in climate and Earth system model development and analysis
- Rich Norby (ORNL; [redacted].gov); Richard J. Norby, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. expert in carbon field studies in ecology
- Peter Thornton (ORNL) https://www.ornl.gov/staff-profile/peter-e-thornton land systems, carbon, modeling and climate
- Allen Fawcett (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/allen-fawcett human-energy-environment interactions
- Ian Kraucunas (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/ian-kraucunas energy and earth system modeling and analysis
- Jae Edmonds (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/jae-edmonds global and regional energy and climate interactions
- Rao Kotamarthi (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/rao-kotamarthi climate impacts, modeling
- Cristina Negri (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/cristina-negri environment and impacts

In addition to myself from BER, please include Tristram West ([redacted].gov) who works with me.

I will be requesting the reviews be sent to you and to me by COB Monday. In addition to providing our own reviews, Tris and I can help collate the reviews by COB Tuesday.

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Subject: FW: Technical reviewers

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Thanks again!

Best,
Travis

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http://www.cfanclimate.net

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****

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 11:39 AM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua; Fisher, Travis; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter
Attachments: 6-10-25 - USGCRP Framing Doc - DRAFT [RM 06-16].docx

Here's a suggested re-draft.

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 1:57 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

This following statement is ambiguous and isn't really correct. The report uses the word consensus not that often, and many conclusions are with medium and high consensus (denoting relatively low values of consensus). This statement (or something similar) would not be included in our assessment of the NCA5:

"assumes without caveat complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to greenhouse gas emissions".

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Can you elaborate on how it is prejudicial?

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 9:59 AM
To: Loucks, Joshua <joshua.loucks@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; climateman60@gmail.com <climateman60@gmail.com>; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; steven.koonin@gmail.com <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

Joshua, I strongly recommend that this text be deleted. It is prejudicial to our assessment.

~~15 U.S.C. 2936. Notwithstanding Congress's command, the prior Administration promulgated NCA5, a dense and voluminous document that assumes without caveat complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to greenhouse gas emissions. But as the DOE 2025 CWG Report clarifies, the complex science of climate change, and especially the impact of carbon dioxide emissions, remains contested.~~

On Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 9:52 AM Loucks, Joshua <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Hi All,

Attached is a letter for everyone's review. Feel free to reach out to Travis, Seth, or I if you have any comments.

Thank you,

Joshua L. Loucks

Special Assistant

The Office of the Deputy Secretary

Office: (204) 961-2098

Mobile: (518) 419-5327

--

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
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PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL
PRE-DECISIONAL ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

On May 23, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order, "Restoring Gold Standard Science," in which he identified and addressed a national crisis of faith in the scientific community—and especially scientific research and messaging originating from the government. To help repair the damage caused by the last Administration's breach of public trust, the President directed the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy ("OSTP") to work with relevant agencies to issue guidance to ensure this Administration conducts and promotes only "Gold Standard Science." Now, before relying on scientific evidence, agencies must first ensure that the underlying research and its conclusions are: (i) reproducible; (ii) transparent; (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty; (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary; (v) skeptical of their findings and assumptions; (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses; (vii) subject to unbiased peer review; (viii) accepting of negative results of positive outcomes; and (ix) without conflicts of interest. We and the scientific community owe the American public no less.

By demanding objective inquiry, the Gold Standard Executive Order enacts as official policy a ground truth already pursued by this Administration and its leadership. Indeed, in March 2025, Christopher Wright, the Secretary of the Department of Energy ("DOE"), assembled an independent team of [climate ~~scientists~~] experts ("DOE Climate Working Group" or "CWG") to write a report on issues in climate science, with an emphasis on the impact of carbon dioxide emissions. On May 28, 2025 the CWG delivered its preliminary report ("DOE 2025 CWG Report") raising grave concerns about discrepancies between the body of peer-reviewed climatology research and the last Administration's messaging on anthropogenic climate change, carbon dioxide emissions, and responsive policy action.

Commented [SK1]: Actually only one economist, so better to just say scientists

~~Worse, a~~After reviewing the DOE 2025 CWG Report, I ~~fear that the last Administration may have politicized the analysis in~~judge that an assessment of the Fifth National Climate Assessment ("NCA5"), ~~rather than adhering to longstanding scientific guidelines~~ is merited. By order of Congress, the United States Global Change Research Program ("USGCRP") publishes a quadrennial National Climate Assessment that must:

> (1) integrate[], evaluate[], and interpret[] the findings of the [USGCRP] Program and discuss[] the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings; (2) analyze[] the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity; and (3) analyze[] current trends in global change, both human-inducted and natural, and project[] major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.

15 U.S.C. 2936. Notwithstanding Congress's command, the ~~prior Administration promulgated NCA5, a dense and voluminous document that assumes without caveat complete scientific consensus on anthropogenic climate change due primarily to~~

~~greenhouse gas emissions~~NCA5 does not communicate relevant scientific complexities and uncertainties as reported in the DOE 2025 CWG Report nor does it provide as comprehensive a discussion of current effects and trends. ~~But as the DOE 2025 CWG Report clarifies, the complex science of climate change, and especially the impact of carbon dioxide emissions, remains contested.~~

As the Gold Standard Science Executive Order indicates, this Administration intends to restore public trust by balancing policy interests against objective scientific inquiry and competing viewpoints. Science must remain scientific, not political. We greatly appreciate Secretary Wright's leadership in bringing to light the glaring biases in scientific assessments that policymakers use to craft rules and regulations that shape the lives for more than 320 million of our fellow citizens. In that same spirit, and to guide [INSERT DEPARTMENT] policy making, and consistent with the Gold Standard Science Executive Order, I now request that, by [INSERT DATE] the DOE's CWG prepare an additional report on whether NCA5 can serve as a sound scientific basis for federal climate and energy policy. In the process, the CWG should focus on: (1) whether NCA5 complied with the USGCRP's statutory obligation to "integrate[], "evaluate[], and interpret[] . . . the scientific uncertainties associated with" USGCRP's findings; and (2) whether NCA5 adheres to the core, uncontroversial scientific tenants of Gold Standard Science.

[INSERT AUTHOR]

From: Fisher, Travis
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 1:36 PM
To: ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; curry.judith@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com
Cc: Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua
Subject: FW: Update: Technical reviewers
Attachments: DOE Report Review TW.xlsx

Another round of comments from the Office of Science. It's not clear to me whether Harriet Kung will offer a separate review, but her comments would be the last from the Office of Science.

We only have one of six reviews back from the national labs so far, so brace yourselves for potentially five additional sets of detailed comments.

No other program offices (like public affairs, congressional affairs, etc.) have submitted comments, and I don't expect them to.

I'll keep passing these along as I get them.

From: West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 1:21 PM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Subject: RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Hi Travis,
Thanks for the opportunity to review this document. There are many topics covered; all of which would take much more time to properly review. As such, I've only commented on areas with which I'm most familiar.

I do appreciate the documentation of perceived uncertainties and I hope DOE can make some progress in these areas.

Tris

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY
Follow us on social media

Tristram West
[redacted]

Biological and Environmental Research
OFFICE [redacted]
MOBILE

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>; West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
Subject: [Not Virus Scanned] RE: Update: Technical reviewers

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Password: [redacted]

Thank you for reviewing this report on such short notice and under a tight deadline. I sincerely appreciate it.

Best,
Travis

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Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 8:59 AM
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Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Ok will do.
Dorothy

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Thanks, Dorothy.

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To widen the field, I would suggest you go down the list you provided and stop when you hit a critical mass. Five would be great, but fewer is ok with me—I defer to you on what seems like the right number of technical reviewers. If the experts' willingness and availability limits us to two or three lab reviewers under the tight timeframe, that is ok.

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- Rich Norby (ORNL; [redacted].gov); Richard J. Norby, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. expert in carbon field studies in ecology
- Peter Thornton (ORNL) https://www.ornl.gov/staff-profile/peter-e-thornton land systems, carbon, modeling and climate
- Allen Fawcett (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/allen-fawcett human-energy-environment interactions
- Ian Kraucunas (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/ian-kraucunas energy and earth system modeling and analysis
- Jae Edmonds (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/jae-edmonds global and regional energy and climate interactions
- Rao Kotamarthi (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/rao-kotamarthi climate impacts, modeling
- Cristina Negri (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/cristina-negri environment and impacts

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5. **Bill Collins** (LBNL; [redacted].gov): William Collins | About | Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. expertise in climate and earth system dynamics, modeling, and AI

I am happy to send each of these reviewers a uniquely watermarked PDF of the report once you've had the opportunity to speak with them. Please also extend an open invitation for them (or your staff) to contact me if they have any questions about the process or the early stages of this effort. My personal cell is the best way to reach me: [redacted].

The key things to emphasize are the sensitivity of this process, the importance of their comments in improving the report, and the high priority the Secretary places on this work. I want each reviewer to be as candid as possible in their review, and I simply can't thank them enough for the quick turnaround—we will need all comments by the end of the day on Monday.

Also, I sincerely appreciate your offer to help in compiling the comments and producing the peer review report with me. Please give Dorothy my best wishes too as you both undertake this work on a tight deadline. As I've already told some of my team members, you are my new favorite person at DOE.

The attached PDF is an example of what I will be sending each reviewer individually. Feel free to share it with Dorothy so you both have some context for your calls (but keep a very close hold otherwise).

Thanks again!

Best,
Travis

PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL
PRE-DECISIONAL ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

On May 23, 2025, President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order, "Restoring Gold Standard Science," in which he identified and addressed a national crisis of faith in the scientific community—and especially scientific research and messaging originating from the government. To help repair the damage caused by the last Administration's breach of public trust, the President directed the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy ("OSTP") to work with relevant agencies to issue guidance to ensure this Administration conducts and promotes only "Gold Standard Science." Now, before relying on scientific evidence, agencies must first ensure that the underlying research and its conclusions are: (i) reproducible; (ii) transparent; (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty; (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary; (v) skeptical of their findings and assumptions; (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses; (vii) subject to unbiased peer review; (viii) accepting of negative results of positive outcomes; and (ix) without conflicts of interest. We and the scientific community owe the American public no less.

By demanding objective inquiry, the Gold Standard Executive Order enacts as official policy a ground truth already pursued by this Administration and its leadership. Indeed, in March 2025, Christopher Wright, the Secretary of the Department of Energy ("DOE"), assembled an independent team of [climate ~~scientists~~] experts ("DOE Climate Working Group" or "CWG") to write a report on issues in climate science, with an emphasis on the impact of carbon dioxide emissions. On May 28, 2025 the CWG delivered its preliminary report ("DOE 2025 CWG Report") raising grave concerns about discrepancies between the body of peer-reviewed climatology research and the last Administration's messaging on anthropogenic climate change, carbon dioxide emissions, and responsive policy action.

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> (1) integrate[s], evaluate[s], and interpret[s] the findings of the [USGCRP] Program and discuss[es] the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings; (2) analyze[s] the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity; and (3) analyze[s] current trends in global change, both human-inducted and natural, and project[s] major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.

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As the Gold Standard Science Executive Order indicates, this Administration intends to restore public trust by balancing policy interests against objective scientific inquiry and competing viewpoints. Science must remain scientific, not political. We greatly appreciate Secretary Wright's leadership in bringing to light the glaring biases in scientific assessments that policymakers use to craft rules and regulations that shape the lives for more than 320 million of our fellow citizens. In that same spirit, and to guide ~~federal~~[INSERT DEPARTMENT] policy making, and consistent with the Gold Standard Science Executive Order, I now request that, by [INSERT DATE July 11] the DOE's CWG prepare an additional report ~~on assessing~~ **whether NCA5** ~~can serve as a sound scientific basis for federal climate and energy policy. In the process, the CWG should focus on:~~ **(1)** ~~whether NCA5~~ **complied with the USGCRP's statutory obligation**, ~~to "integrate[], "evaluate[], and interpret[] . . . the scientific uncertainties associated with" USGCRP's findings; and~~ **(2)** ~~whether NCA5~~ **adheres to the core**, ~~uncontroversial scientific tenants~~ **tenets of Gold Standard Science**, and (3) can suitably inform federal climate and energy policy.

[INSERT AUTHOR]

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From: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/13/2025 5:57:37 PM
To: Cohen, Seth [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
CC: Loucks, Joshua [Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov]; Fisher, Travis [travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov]; climateman60@gmail.com; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

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Special Assistant
The Office of the Deputy Secretary
Office: (204) 961-2098
Mobile: (518) 419-5327

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http://www.cfanclimate.net

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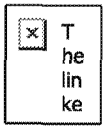

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From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 11:39 AM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua; Fisher, Travis; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter
Attachments: 6-10-25 - USGCRP Framing Doc - DRAFT [RM 06-16].docx

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PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL
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[INSERT AUTHOR]

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Ross McKitrick; Judith Curry
Cc: Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua; Fisher, Travis; climateman60@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

I like it.
-Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Date: 6/16/25 10:42 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: "Cohen, Seth" <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>, "Loucks, Joshua" <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov>, "Fisher, Travis" <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>, climateman60@gmail.com, steven.koonin@gmail.com, roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL/PREDECISIONAL: Draft Tasking Letter

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Cc: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; climateman60@gmail.com <climateman60@gmail.com>;

ross.mckitrick@gmail.com <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; steven.koonin@gmail.com <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
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From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 5:19 PM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: Ross McKitrick; Judith Curry; Roy W. Spencer; John Christy; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: CWG current edition

We should be ok if we have a final (final) version to circulate by 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Here's the upcoming process as I understand it. We need to follow the IQA guidelines and DOE regulations that would apply to any DOE report. That means peer review. We've identified eight climate specialists at the national labs (listed below). We will send them the CWG report tomorrow and ask for their comments by the end of the day on Monday, July 21. The goal is to publish the DOE CWG report for public comment on Wednesday, July 23. We will also send the report to the relevant DOE offices (TBD which offices those are, so please share any thoughts you have on that).

If reviewers find any errors, I suggest we correct them. However, if they simply disagree with portions of the report that you all want to keep, or if they suggest additions, you should feel free to ignore them. I want to reassure you all that you have the final pen on this report.

Given the tight timelines (sorry!), I think we should schedule a meeting on either Monday night, 7/21, or Tuesday morning, 7/22, to discuss any comments received.

Do you have any reservations about any of the following potential reviewers from the labs? In particular, please let me know if you foresee any reasons why they would not be credible, impartial, etc.

Dave Bader - LLNL
Stan Wullschleger - ORNL
Bill Riley - LBNL
Rich Norby - ORNL
Julie Jastrow - ANL
Kate Calvin - PNNL
Michael Wehner - LBNL
Bill Collins - LBNL

I would advise against adding any new material to the report at this point, especially because the Secretary liked the original report so much.

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 5:11 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Poor connectivity due to one of those extreme precipitation events in the Hudson Valley. I'll do my best.

Steven E. Koonin

> On Jul 14, 2025, at 16:33, Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>
> I went through and accepted all the grammar and minor edits from Steve and Judy. Items needing everyone's

sign-off:
> - modified text in Preface (in red)
> - minor wording insertion p. 27
> - minor wording insertion p. 34
> - minor wording p. 58
> - treatment of dead link p 60
> - wording p. 75
> - wording p. 91
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> - Fig 10.1
>
> Note p. 131: is that Glossary entry (climate change) correct?
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>
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>
> <DoE.Report.July14.FOR_APPROVAL.docx>

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Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 5:34 PM
To: Travis Fisher
Cc: Steven Koonin; Judith Curry; Roy W. Spencer; John Christy; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: CWG current edition

The only name I recognize is Michael Wehner who's heavily involved in extreme weather attribution and played a role in the Environmental Law Institute Climate Judiciary Project
https://cjp.eli.org/curriculum/detection-and-attribution-climate-change
His report is rather reasonable compared to the others in the CJP but he's put his name on a lot of extreme event attribution stuff lately that suggests a bit of an agenda.

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To: Judith Curry
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steve Koonin; Ross McKitrick; Roy W. Spencer; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: CWG current edition

Dave has overtly worked against our UAH projects and supported Santer at every turn in his many attempts to discredit us. In my personal conversations with him (and having contact with someone who worked with him daily) it was obvious he was personally vested in our demise. Has he changed? I haven't dealt with him in over 10 years, so that is always a possibility. In one sense It would be interesting to see his reaction - but it would be more like CoPilot's view of us as "contrarians".

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climateman60@gmail.com

On Jul 14, 2025, at 6:07 PM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

i searched for bader on twitter, google, news, etc. Didn't find anything objectionable?

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 3:06 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:
Dave Bader is not to be considered - highly antagonistic to anything that doesn't support the narrative, and is not a climate scientist. Heard of Bill Collins (modeler in UCB) but don't know the others.

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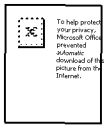
>
>
> I went through and accepted all the grammar and minor edits from Steve and Judy. Items needing everyone's sign-off:
> - modified text in Preface (in red)
> - minor wording insertion p. 27
> - minor wording insertion p. 34
> - minor wording p. 58
> - treatment of dead link p 60
> - wording p. 75
> - wording p. 91
> - New section 9.4 on nutrient dilution p. 108 (doesn't change pagination thereafter)
> - Fig 10.1
>
> Note p. 131: is that Glossary entry (climate change) correct?
> Need a quick turnaround if this is to be submitted tomorrow.
>

> <DoE.Report.July14.FOR_APPROVAL.docx>

--



Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
http://www.cfanclimate.net

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin
Cc: Judith Curry; Ross McKitrick; John Christy; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?
Attachments: Reforming the NCA process-[RS edits].docx

Attached find Travis' original draft with some of my suggestions added.

I'm dealing with family health issues today, which are always in flux, so I'm 50/50 for joining the meeting.

-Roy

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:32 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Hi all,

I agree with Steve that we have a direct line to NCA reform. Please see the attached document, which I compiled with some help. If you want to hear the details behind the assignment, I suggest we have a video meeting soon (best time for me would be 2 pm ET tomorrow). The takeaway is that we should draft this with a future director of the USGCRP in mind as the author.

Please feel free to put this in Dropbox if that's helpful. I want to make sure you all have an opportunity to chime in. My best guess as to a deadline for submitting this to the folks who might issue it is June 16. The biggest lift remaining, as I see it, is to map the elements of the DOE report to the right places in this draft. Please don't be shy about referencing the DOE report!

Best,
Travis

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:28 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

> I think OSTP is quite open to suggestions.
>
> One thing that needs to change is to restore the focus to the science.
>
> NCA5 assumes the science is settled, and so gives it pretty short shrift. Instead they concentrate on impacts, equity, etc.
>
> But what we've written shows the science is far from settled.
> So NCA needs to get back to basics.

DOJ_00100059

On May 29, 2025, at 18:07, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Your thoughts on our group making a pre-emptive unofficial recommendation on what should be in the next NCA and how the process should proceed? or is there some infrastructure on this that is already underway (i'm out of the loop). Some pre-emptive common sense might be useful

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:20 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I had a first-hand exposure to the NASEM process when I chaired their Divisional Committee for Engineering and Physical Sciences (DEPSCOM) for six years. We oversaw the commissioning, execution, and publication of (I'd guess) more than 100 reports during that time. They were all quite well done, but none of them concerned climate science.

NASEM on climate was an entirely different matter. I got stonewalled when I tried to complain about it to the management. And friends who were on climate-related studies have some horror stories to tell.

I'd hope that if we do a critique of NCA5, we'll also comment on the NASEM role. They really dropped the ball.

SEK

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:53 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Without even reading the NASEM report I assume it's useless. The problem is they draw experts from govt agencies and universities. That crowd knows that the NCA serves a partisan purpose so they'll pull their punches to prevent giving fodder to the enemies of the movement.
The data show universities are about 95/5 dems/gop and not only that, but among the dems the party identification is "strong" versus mostly "weak" or "leans" among gop. So draw a random sample from academia (ensuring a "wide range" of views blah blah blah) and you end up with left and further left. Up until recently we had to go along with the illusion that expert panels can be relied upon to provide balanced scientific advice but the obvious bias of the IPCC and NCA, among others (CDC, WHO etc) have killed that expectation. They let themselves be colonized by the left and now they've lost any claim on public trust.

RPJr posted this data from a recent UChicago survey

<image001.png>

Almost 50% of republicans (and 30% of independents) now view ivy league universities not just as useless but as their enemies. The antagonism is fully deserved. The NASEM needs to

commission a report explaining why the universities became such one-sided intolerant monocultures and what can be done to fix it, and until they tackle that issue they too deserve the DOGE treatment.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 10:09 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

> I've downloaded the report (https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/) There's very little of the foundational science in its 1834 pages(!) that's amenable to serious scientific critique.
>
> I also attach the NASEM review of the NCA5 draft, as well as the authors' responses to that review.
>
> And here's a link to the "gold standard" EO: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/ . A reminder that its criteria are:
>
> (i) reproducible;
> (ii) transparent;
> (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
> (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
> (v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
> (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
> (vii) subject to unbiased peer review;
> (viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
> (ix) without conflicts of interest.
>
> SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

This mirrors the word usage from the briefing we received from the head of NCA5.

John C.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:56 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

> I guess people used to the NCA genre are going to find our report totally off-topic.
>
> On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:01 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
>
> > I did keyword counts in NCA5, and got the following results:
> >
> > **Mentions of RCP/SSP Scenarios (other than definitions):**

RCP8.5/SSP5-8.5: 105 (53%)
RCP6.0/SSP3-7.0: 8 (4%)
RCP4.5/SSP2-4.5: 66 (33%)
RCP2.6/SSP1-2.6: 19 (10%)

Social/Societal keywords
Indigenous/Tribes/Tribal: 1,679
Culture/Culturally: 854
Equity/Equitable: 572
Sustainable: 295
Inequality/Unequal: 201
Racism/Racial: 153
Low-Income: 105
Injustice: 94
Communities of Color: 67
Minorities: 37

--

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http://www.cfanclimate.net

Summary of Errors in the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) and Proposal to Reform the NCA Process

Commented [TF1]: Should this be drafted as a proposed rulemaking?

I. Executive Summary

The fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) fails to meet the statutory requirements of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA)[1] and violates Executive Order 14303, "Restoring Gold Standard Science" (EO14303).[2] NCA 5 must be replaced by an objective, science-based National Global Change Assessment that complies with the GCRA and EO14303.

Commented [TF2]: Do all NCAs so far rely to some degree on RCP 8.5? We could go further here and find that no prior NCA complies with the Executive Order

Commented [RS3R2]: No, but the use of a range of emissions scenarios go back to NCA1. I think it's best to stick to the last 1-2 NCAs which represent the current state-of-the-art.

Under the GCRA's terms, the USGCRP must issue periodic assessments to update policymakers on a variety of global changes. To fulfill its statutory mission to "describe and understand" the Earth's systems and human impacts on them, such a report should be ~~comprehensive,~~ objective, ~~and precise~~based upon realistic assumptions, include societal benefits of modest levels of warming, and account for human adaptation. In recent years, however, USGCRP assessments have ~~become climate-focused documents that serve to~~ increasingly served to justify predetermined policy and societal actions.

Commented [RS4]: My changes here are meant to distinguish our approach from that of previous NCAs: I think hundreds of previous authors would object to the inference they were not comprehensive, or lacked scientific integrity.

Compliance with the GCRA and EO14303 requires a new, revamped National Global Change Assessment authored by scientists ~~with a track record of scientific integrity~~ through a process that prioritizes scientific rigor over issues of social justice. It ~~will also~~ requires a new commitment to descriptive science rather than prescriptive advocacy. This document proposes ___ key reforms to overhaul the upcoming NCA6 in line with directives from EO14303 and the GCRA's statutory mandate:

~~Reform 1: Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes~~

Commented [RS5]: Renaming the report should not be considered a top reform

Reform ~~1~~2: Reject implausible or outlier scenarios and properly address uncertainties

Reform ~~2~~3: Address both positive and negative changes

~~Reform 4: Restructure committees and replace key personnel~~

Commented [RS6]: I think reforms should stick to the science problems of the NCAs, not bureaucracy.

[expand?]

Comments on this proposed rule are due within XX days of publication in the Federal Register.

[1] [HYPERLINK "https://www.globalchange.gov/about-us/legal-mandate"]
[2] [HYPERLINK "https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09802/restoring-gold-standard-science"]

DOJ_00100063

II. ~~Introduction:~~ The Need for Reform

~~Since its inception, the USGCRP's assessments have fallen short of their statutory charge under the GCRA "to improve understanding of global change" and inform policymakers in the United States.~~ Congress intended for USGCRP to provide a holistic report on global change to help policymakers make objective policy decisions, but the NCA has served instead as a political tool for advancing an interventionist climate policy agenda while introducing selection biases in scientific data. As such, it has fallen short of the intended goals of the GCRA.

Despite the NCA's failure to comply with the GCRA, it holds immense power. First, ideological activists frequently cite the NCA in climate litigation since recent NCAs rely upon highly improbably future CO_2 emissions scenarios and global climate models that produce too much warming even with realistic CO_2 assumptions, ~~because it supports their arguments and is developed by 700+ academic [authors].~~ Second, the NCA provides a foundation for the 2009 Endangerment Finding that any greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pose a significant threat to public health and welfare.[3] The regulatory regime enabled by the Endangerment Finding has been one of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) most impactful tools in implementing energy and environmental policy in the United States since 2009.[4] Third, numerous federal and state policymakers point to the NCA to justify policies that increase energy costs for U.S. consumers and manufacturers, limit economic growth, and add costs that disproportionately harm lower-income Americans.[5] Those downsides of energy policies are seldom discussed, even though their costs will fall on U.S. citizens.

Commented [RS7]: 500+ authors. Also, many would view the large number of authors of evidence of increasingly widespread consensus (NCA1 had 112 authors, I counted)

The first Trump administration declined to correct course on the NCA. However, we find good reason to correct course today, particularly considering EO14303 and its admonition to return to gold standard science, including using realistic future emissions scenarios—rather than Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 (RCP 8.5)—to assess the potential effects of climate change. We also find the May 2025 report commissioned by the Secretary of Energy, "Impacts of Carbon Dioxide Emissions on the U.S. Climate," to offer compelling reasons to revisit many of the conclusions in NCA 5 that were presented as incontrovertible.

The sixth National Climate Assessment (NCA 6) was under development until ____, scheduled for release in late 2027 or early 2028. With this rulemaking, we ensure compliance with GCRA and EO14303 and announce our intent to issue the new "National Global Change Assessment" (NGCA 1) on or around the same timeline as the proposed NCA 6.

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[3] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a"]

[4] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-clean-air-act-0" \h] [add a list of major rules that rely on the endangerment finding?]

[5] Need some examples.

DOJ_00100065

III. Specification of Errors in NCA 5 and Previous Reports

Commented [TF8]: Please feel free to tee off on this section. I pasted John's initial thoughts here

Past global change reports—which so far have been called National Climate Assessments—have repeatedly failed on ___ counts to comply with OCRA and/or EO14303. Specifically,

From JC:

Rejection of NCA5 based on significant problems. DoE-CR = Department of Energy Climate Report May 2025.

NCA5 failed to verify climate model output as fit-for-purpose. DoE-CR Ch4,5.

NCA5 relied on model output based on an implausible emissions scenario. DoE-CR Ch4,5

NCA5 misrepresented changes in extreme weather events by using short data records and improper mathematical analyses. DoE-CR Ch6.

NCA5 failed to investigate the full range of impacts, especially the positive impacts, of adding CO2 to the atmosphere while overstating the negative impacts. DoE-CR Ch1,2,3,9,11.

NCA5 failed to perform a comprehensive analysis of economic impacts of enhanced atmospheric CO2. DoE-CR Ch9-12.

NCA5 failed to perform comprehensive analyses (using the scientific method) regarding attribution of those changes that have been observed. DoE-CR Ch8.

A. The NCA ignores non-climate changes

Commented [RS9]: I would put as the first error the reliance on extremely unlikely CO2 emissions scenarios; RCP/SSP 8.5 is mentioned more than all other scenarios combined in NCA5.

The NCA is tasked with covering the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity and their respective long-term changes over 25 and 100 years.

Commented [RS10]: I'm not an expert on the NCAs, but from what I've seen they do cover most if not all of the list in this paragraph.

Instead the NCA puts a narrow focus on climate and, for any given area of global change, only discusses the climate change-related impacts on that area.

B. The NCA ignores positive changes

Even within its narrow focus of climate, the NCA should cover positive and negative climate changes. Instead, the NCA focuses entirely on negative climate changes and completely ignores positive climate changes.[6]

The NCA analyzes increases in danger potential from extreme weather with more warming, but ignores the far more massive decline in weather-related death rates at the national and global scale and the

[6] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]

DOJ_00100067

potential for growing wealth and technological advancements to make us even safer from climate and extreme weather.[7]

The NCA emphasizes a minor projected increase in heat-related deaths, but ignores the larger projected decrease in cold-related deaths thanks to warming and the preventability of temperature-related deaths in a wealthier and more technologically advanced US and global economy.[8]

The NCA emphasizes potential for negative impacts on agriculture thanks to climate change, but ignores the far larger projected increase in agricultural productivity over the next century thanks to technological progress—which far outweighs the projected negative impacts even in high emissions scenarios.[9]

More broadly, the NCA completely fails to make any mention of the massive increase in climate resilience globally thanks to heating, A/C, irrigation systems, storm warning systems, infrastructure, and other such technology—despite the fact that these measures decreased the decadal climate-related disaster death rate by an incredible 98% between 1920 and 2020, which required the historical use of fossil fuels and will continue to require fossil fuel use for the foreseeable future.[10]

---

[7] [HYPERLINK "https://energytalkingpoints.com/3-undeniable-facts-about-climate-for-cop29/" \h]

[8] [HYPERLINK "https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00081-4/fulltext" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://financialpost.com/opinion/bjorn-lomborg-climate-change-and-deaths-from-extreme-heat-and-cold" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h]

[9] [HYPERLINK "https://thebreakthrough.org/issues/food-agriculture-environment/the-ipcc-report-on-the-impacts-of-climate-change-is-depressing" \h]

[10] For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought, flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 per year during the 2010s.

Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [HYPERLINK "http://www.emdat.be" \h] (D. Guha-Sapir).

Population estimates for the 1920s from the [HYPERLINK "https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/releases/maddison-database-2010" \h], the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at University of Groningen. For years not shown, the population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.

Population estimates for the 2010s come from [HYPERLINK "https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL" \h].

DOJ_00100068

C. The NCA amplifies negative changes

Commented [RS11]: I think this should be the first point.

When considering negative changes, the NCA should be precise. Instead, the NCA repeatedly exaggerates and fabricates negative climate changes.

Example: The NCA exaggerates projected climate harms using highly implausible emissions scenarios like RCP8.5.

The NCA uncritically employs a set of extremely implausible to impossible scenarios (e.g., RCP8.5/SSP3-7.0) in the projection of future outcomes, and treats them as equally plausible to other scenarios. Even though mainstream climatology views these scenarios and their associated projected outcomes—such as sea level rises of over 2 meters by the year 2100—to be incredibly unlikely, the NCA describes these scenarios as all being plausible futures and even worth emphasizing.

For example, the NCA5 mentions that "mass fish die-offs from extreme summertime heat are projected to double by midcentury in northern temperate lakes under a very high scenario (RCP8.5)." No other outcome under a different scenario is mentioned in this context, despite this being an incredibly unlikely to impossible scenario. And there is no mention of the uncertainties involved in such an extreme and unlikely projection.[11]

Another example comes from the electricity sector. NCA5 states that "Annual expenditures on electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure *could* rise up to 25% by 2090 under a very high scenario (RCP8.5) compared to a scenario without climate change." (emphasis added) There is no attempt to assess the likelihood of this outcome, no mention of any other more realistic scenario, no acknowledgement that a scenario without climate change is impossible and not a sound baseline for comparison. There is also no mention that the promoted climate policies in NCA5—increasing reliance on green electricity from solar and wind—have already and would continue to massively increase the cost of such infrastructure, while some simple adaptation measures—like burying transmission lines—could likely nullify the potential impacts of extreme weather on such infrastructure by the late 21st century.[12]

Example: The NCA exaggerates harms from extreme weather events using the pseudoscientific "billion-dollar disaster" statistic.

The NCA uncritically cites the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's "billion-dollar disasters" statistic, which counts the number of natural disasters in the U.S. each year that cause at least $1 billion in damages, as evidence that "[h]armful impacts from more frequent and severe extremes are increasing across the country"—despite the inadequacy of disaster cost statistics to derive extreme weather trends because of the multiple factors—like economic growth and disproportionately increasing populations in vulnerable spots—involved, and the enormous methodological and data collection flaws in NOAA's product, which violate basic principles of scientific integrity and transparency.[13]

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[11] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[12] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[13] [HYPERLINK "https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://doi.org/10.1038/s44304-024-00011-0" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-are-a-national?utm_source=publication-search" \h]

NOAA's billion dollar disaster statistic represents an outlier finding in defiance of available quality scientific publications and the IPCC, which finds that most human impacts on climate extremes like storms and floods are yet undetected and will likely remain so for the rest of the century, even assuming very high emission scenarios.[14]

Based on the scientific literature, disaster cost trends are flat and can mostly or even completely be explained by increases in demographic trends and increasing concentrations of wealth in vulnerable areas like coastlines, rendering the NCA's claims at minimum a major exaggeration of the truth.[15]

The NCA fails to acknowledge uncertainty.

Despite the statute's mandate that USGCRP's report "discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings," the NCA completely fails to identify the extremely high levels of uncertainty associated with these future outcomes.

[expand]

Additional examples may be found in the public comment and response record.[16]

Commented [TF12]: Does anyone want to comb through the record and find some of the more egregious examples?

[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-not-the" \h]
[14] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/what-the-ipcc-actually-says-about?utm_source=publication-search" \h]
[15] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/climate-change-is-showing-its-claws" \h]
[16] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA5_Public-Comments-Author-Responses-ZOD.pdf" \h]

DOJ_00100070

IV. Reforms to the USGCRP

A. Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes

To date, the global change report has failed to comply with the GCRA because it is not comprehensive. The report is renamed the "National Global Change Assessment" and must address "global change" as it is defined in the statute. Past reports including NCA5 have interpreted the term to mean something like "climate change and its related global effects." But while "global change" includes climate change, it is not limited to it. We will stake out a broader scope for the report, which will include important trends and help to close relevant knowledge gaps about potentially important topics, as intended by Congress.

In particular, the revamped assessment will highlight trends in things like [please add items as necessary] energy production/use, known reserves, deaths from natural disaster and temperature exposure, human health, agricultural production, total/coastal populations, criteria pollutant emissions, forest cover, solar insolation, potable water, etc.

B. Reject unrealistic scenarios and address uncertainties

The next assessment shall not rely on any implausible emissions scenarios. For example the next assessment must not include any references to UN IPCC report outcomes or similarly flawed analyses that are based on SSP3-7.0 or RCP8.5, which are now known to involve unrealistically high future CO_2 emissions.

The next assessment shall examine the plausibility and limitations of scenarios describing the potential future under global changes and limit its analysis to scenarios that are at least within the likely range of possible developments. For climate scenarios this should mean a limit to those futures that feature no more than 3°C of warming above preindustrial levels.

C. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment shall acknowledge uncertainty about future changes and the potential of humans to adapt to or mitigate negative impacts through technological advancements. The goal is to identify key drivers of human well-being, including economic prosperity and freedom of action to optimize these factors on the individual, national, and global level.

D. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment must be regarded as a "highly influential scientific assessment" under the Information Quality Act (IQA), subjecting its review to additional obligations, including: reproducibility, transparency, utility, traceability, objectivity and integrity. To date, assessments falsely claim to have complied with these provisions of the IQA based on supposed compliance by the more than 700 authors of the assessment who were tasked with evaluating their sources of information using a decision tree and IQA questionnaire. The public has never been provided with these evaluations.

Commented [RS13]: I don't understand this. The NCAs include all kinds of (supposed) changes, and if anything they IGNORE global effects, and instead address climate change effects in just the U.S.

Commented [RS14]: The NCAs already cover most of these.

Commented [TF15]: From EO14303: "agencies have used Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 to assess the potential effects of climate change in a "higher" warming scenario. RCP 8.5 is a worst-case scenario based on highly unlikely assumptions like end-of-century coal use exceeding estimates of recoverable coal reserves. Scientists have warned that presenting RCP 8.5 as a likely outcome is misleading."

Commented [TF16]: Should probably mention and spell this out earlier in the document

Commented [RS17]: Future warming depends upon emissions scenarios PLUS climate model sensitivity, which hasn't been discussed yet.

Formatted: Heading 2

Formatted: Heading 2

DOJ_00100071

The new Committee should consider making all prior (self-assessment) evaluations publicly available. If the Committee is unable to find these evaluations, the public should be informed the federal government has no (or incomplete) records of these evaluations.

Commented [RS18]: This seems out of place

E. Is This a New Reform Topic?

Formatted: Heading 2

The next assessment must use proper language to accurately inform decisionmakers and the public. To date, the assessments use inconsistent outcome metrics and do not use risk assessment terms consistent with established practice, resulting in unlikely findings, and non-compliance with the GCRA and the IQA. A new assessment should use consistent definitions of "risk", "hazard", "vulnerability", "consequences" and "impacts." "Risk" should be the probability-weighted combination of "hazard" (hazard identification and dose-response) and "exposure" (exposure assessment). To date, the assessments have portrayed hazards as actual exposures.

~~C.~~F. Address both positive and negative changes

To date, the global change report has failed to be an objective piece of written communication. The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Committee must follow the statute and seek information on "changes," meaning both positive and negative trends.

The next assessment shall include potential costs and benefits of various global changes and discuss them in light of larger domestic and global trends. For example, the impacts of GHG emissions over the next 25 or 100 years on agriculture must include an assessment of actual trends in agriculture, which show a net increase in food production globally and in the US. GHG emissions have many nuances effects including the fertilization effect of carbon dioxide on plants, not just warming impacts.

~~D.~~G. Restructure committees and replace key personnel

To date, the global change report has failed to follow the principles of objectivity and to comply with the statute. These failures can be attributed, in part, to the choice of lead authors creating the report. The authorship of the NCAs has increased dramatically since NCA1 (112 authors) to NCA5 (over 500 authors). This is the direct result of at least two problems: (1) large governmental research budgets funding a marching army of climate researchers, and (2) overly sensitive global climate models that produce an endless source of alarming future climate changes in response to unrealistic future CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere.

This bloat in NCA authorship, as well as in various steering committees, expert advisory panels, and review boards must be curtailed. To follow the GCRA and EO14303, USGCRP will insist on a careful selection of leadership for a ~~broad~~ new report amongst candidates who have a track record of scientific integrity and who lack personal or professional conflicts of interest with regards to the global change report and its potential policy implications.

For example, the choice of authors such as Zeke Hausfather of Stripe, Inc., a business that profits from carbon offset mandates, and Katherine Hayhoe, a leader of the environmental political advocacy group Nature Conservancy, are highly concerning from both a financial conflict of interest and ideological perspective.

DOJ_00100072

In addition to questionable authors, there have been questionable reviewers. For example, the 2021 National Academies report titled "Global Change Research Needs and Opportunities for 2022-2031" included contributors who are advocates for lawsuits against energy companies.[17] Kristie Ebi, vice chair and curriculum advisor for the Climate Judiciary Project, promotes climate activism by judges.

USGCRP will appoint lead authors of the new report who have an exceptionally strong track record of scientific integrity and objectivity. These authors shall be appointed by a combination of (1) a new Request for Proposals for candidates and choosing among those who respond and (2) a top-down approach wherein the members of the Committee nominate potential authors and then, with the approval of the OSTP, the USGCRP director contacts them and engages them on a work agreement.

[17] See here: [HYPERLINK "https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26055/global-change-research-needs-and-opportunities-for-2022-2031" \h]

DOJ_00100073

V. Conclusion

The assessments undertaken so far under the GCRA fail to satisfy the requirements of that statute. They also cannot comply with EO14303 because they include implausible future emissions scenarios. USGCRP hereby rejects NCA 5 and previous assessments and initiates a new process for completing a National Global Change Assessment that will follow the GCRA and advance the gold standard science required by EO14303.

DOJ_00100074

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 1:33 PM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin; Ross McKitrick; John Christy; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?
Attachments: Reforming the NCA process-[RS edits] CURRY.docx; Chapter 10 (2).docx

I started a markup of roy's version (attached).

But i think something different is needed. I am confused for the recommendation re GLOBAL (do you really mean Africa etc). I propose a framing in context of risk assessment. Part III of my book Climate Uncertainty and Risk addresses this issue - Risk and Response (if anyone wants a pdf copy of the book let me know), I've attached ch 10 on risk assessment

On Fri, May 30, 2025 at 9:40 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Attached find Travis' original draft with some of my suggestions added.

I'm dealing with family health issues today, which are always in flux, so I'm 50/50 for joining the meeting.

-Roy

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:32 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Hi all,

I agree with Steve that we have a direct line to NCA reform. Please see the attached document, which I compiled with some help. If you want to hear the details behind the assignment, I suggest we have a video meeting soon (best time for me would be 2 pm ET tomorrow). The takeaway is that we should draft this with a future director of the USGCRP in mind as the author.

Please feel free to put this in Dropbox if that's helpful. I want to make sure you all have an opportunity to chime in. My best guess as to a deadline for submitting this to the folks who might issue it is June 16. The biggest lift remaining, as I see it, is to map the elements of the DOE report to the right places in this draft. Please don't be shy about referencing the DOE report!

Best,
Travis

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:28 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I think OSTP is quite open to suggestions.

One thing that needs to change is to restore the focus to the science.

NCA5 assumes the science is settled, and so gives it pretty short shrift. Instead they concentrate on impacts, equity, etc.

But what we've written shows the science is far from settled.
So NCA needs to get back to basics.

Steven E. Koonin

On May 29, 2025, at 18:07, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Your thoughts on our group making a pre-emptive unofficial recommendation on what should be in the next NCA and how the process should proceed? or is there some infrastructure on this that is already underway (i'm out of the loop). Some pre-emptive common sense might be useful

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:20 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I had a first-hand exposure to the NASEM process when I chaired their Divisional Committee for Engineering and Physical Sciences (DEPSCOM) for six years. We oversaw the commissioning, execution, and publication of (I'd guess) more than 100 reports during that time. They were all quite well done, but none of them concerned climate science.

NASEM on climate was an entirely different matter. I got stonewalled when I tried to complain about it to the management. And friends who were on climate-related studies have some horror stories to tell.

I'd hope that if we do a critique of NCA5, we'll also comment on the NASEM role. They really dropped the ball.

SEK

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:53 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Without even reading the NASEM report I assume it's useless. The problem is they draw experts from govt agencies and universities. That crowd knows that the NCA serves a partisan purpose so they'll pull their punches to prevent giving fodder to the enemies of the movement.

The data show universities are about 95/5 dems/gop and not only that, but among the dems the party identification is "strong" versus mostly "weak" or "leans" among gop. So draw a random sample from academia (ensuring a "wide range" of views blah blah blah) and you end up with left and further left. Up until recently we had to go along with the illusion that expert panels can be relied upon to provide balanced scientific advice but the obvious bias of the IPCC and NCA, among others (CDC, WHO etc) have killed that expectation. They let themselves be colonized by the left and now they've lost any claim on public trust.

RPJr posted this data from a recent UChicago survey

<image001.png>

Almost 50% of republicans (and 30% of independents) now view ivy league universities not just as useless but as their enemies. The antagonism is fully deserved. The NASEM needs to commission a report explaining why the universities became such one-sided intolerant monocultures and what can be done to fix it, and until they tackle that issue they too deserve the DOGE treatment.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 10:09 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

> I've downloaded the report (https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/) There's very little of the foundational science in its 1834 pages(!) that's amenable to serious scientific critique.

I also attach the NASEM review of the NCA5 draft, as well as the authors' responses to that review.

And here's a link to the "gold standard" EO: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/ . A reminder that its criteria are:

(i) reproducible;
(ii) transparent;
(iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
(iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
(v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
(vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
(vii) subject to unbiased peer review;
(viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
(ix) without conflicts of interest.

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

This mirrors the word usage from the briefing we received from the head of NCA5.

John C.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:56 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I guess people used to the NCA genre are going to find our report totally off-topic.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:01 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

I did keyword counts in NCA5, and got the following results:

Mentions of RCP/SSP Scenarios (other than definitions):

RCP8.5/SSP5-8.5: 105 (53%)

RCP6.0/SSP3-7.0: 8 (4%)

RCP4.5/SSP2-4.5: 66 (33%)

RCP2.6/SSP1-2.6: 19 (10%)

Social/Societal keywords

Indigenous/Tribes/Tribal: 1,679

Culture/Culturally: 854

Equity/Equitable: 572

Sustainable: 295

Inequality/Unequal: 201

Racism/Racial: 153

Low-Income: 105

Injustice: 94

Communities of Color: 67

Minorities: 37

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Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
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http://www.cfanclimate.net

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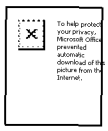

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Summary of Errors in the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) and Proposal to Reform the NCA Process

Commented [TF1]: Should this be drafted as a proposed rulemaking?

I. Executive Summary

The fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA 5) by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) fails to meet the statutory requirements of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA)[1] and violates Executive Order 14303, "Restoring Gold Standard Science" (EO14303).[2] NCA 5 must be replaced by an objective, science-based National Global Change Assessment that complies with the GCRA and EO14303.

Commented [TF2]: Do all NCAs so far rely to some degree on RCP 8.5? We could go further here and find that no prior NCA complies with the Executive Order

Commented [RS3R2]: No, but the use of a range of emissions scenarios go back to NCA1. I think it's best to stick to the last 1-2 NCAs which represent the current state-of-the-art.

Under the GCRA's terms, the USGCRP must issue periodic assessments to update policymakers on a variety of global changes. To fulfill its statutory mission to "describe and understand" the Earth's systems and human impacts on them, such a report should be ~~comprehensive,~~ objective, ~~and precise~~based upon realistic assumptions, include societal benefits of modest levels of warming, and account for human adaptation. In recent years, however, USGCRP assessments have ~~become climate-focused documents that serve to~~ increasingly served to justify predetermined policy and societal actions.

Commented [RS4]: My changes here are meant to distinguish our approach from that of previous NCAs: I think hundreds of previous authors would object to the inference they were not comprehensive, or lacked scientific integrity.

Compliance with the GCRA and EO14303 requires a new, revamped National Global Change Assessment authored by scientists ~~with a track record of scientific integrity~~ through a process that prioritizes scientific rigor over issues of social justice. It ~~will also~~ requires a new commitment to descriptive science rather than prescriptive advocacy. This document proposes ___ key reforms to overhaul the upcoming NCA6 in line with directives from EO14303 and the GCRA's statutory mandate:

~~**Reform 1**: Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes~~

Commented [RS5]: Renaming the report should not be considered a top reform

Reform 1~~2~~: Reject implausible or outlier scenarios and properly address uncertainties

Reform 2~~3~~: Address both positive and negative changes

~~**Reform 4**: Restructure committees and replace key personnel~~

Commented [RS6]: I think reforms should stick to the science problems of the NCAs, not bureaucracy.

[expand?]

Comments on this proposed rule are due within XX days of publication in the Federal Register.

[1] [HYPERLINK "https://www.globalchange.gov/about-us/legal-mandate"]
[2] [HYPERLINK "https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/29/2025-09802/restoring-gold-standard-science"]

DOJ_00100081

II. ~~Introduction:~~ The Need for Reform

~~Since its inception, the USGCRP's assessments have fallen short of their statutory charge under the GCRA "to improve understanding of global change" and inform policymakers in the United States.~~ Congress intended for USGCRP to provide a holistic report on global change to help policymakers make objective policy decisions, but the NCA has served instead as a political tool for advancing ~~an interventionist~~ a specific climate policy agenda while introducing selection biases in scientific data. As such, it has fallen short of the intended goals of the GCRA.

Despite the NCA's failure to comply with the GCRA, it holds immense power. First, ~~ideological activists frequently cite~~ the NCA is frequently cited in climate litigation since recent NCAs rely upon ~~highly improbably~~ implausible future CO_2 emissions scenarios and global climate models that produce too much warming even with realistic emissions scenarios ~~CO_2 assumptions, because it supports their arguments and is developed by 700+ academic authors~~. Second, the NCA provides a foundation for the 2009 Endangerment Finding that any greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions pose a significant threat to public health and welfare.[3] The regulatory regime enabled by the Endangerment Finding has been one of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) most impactful tools in implementing energy and environmental policy in the United States since 2009.[4] Third, numerous federal and state policymakers point to the NCA to justify policies that increase energy costs for U.S. consumers and manufacturers, limit economic growth, and add costs that disproportionately harm lower-income Americans.[5] Those downsides of energy policies are seldom discussed, even though their costs will fall on U.S. citizens.

Commented [RS7]: 500+ authors. Also, many would view the large number of authors of evidence of increasingly widespread consensus (NCA1 had 112 authors, I counted)

The first Trump administration declined to correct course on the NCA. However, we find good reason to correct course today, particularly considering EO14303 and its admonition to return to gold standard science, including using realistic future emissions scenarios—rather than Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 (RCP 8.5)—to assess the potential effects of climate change. We also find the May 2025 report commissioned by the Secretary of Energy, "Impacts of Carbon Dioxide Emissions on the U.S. Climate," to offer compelling reasons to revisit many of the conclusions in NCA 5 that were presented as incontrovertible.

The sixth National Climate Assessment (NCA 6) was under development until ____, scheduled for release in late 2027 or early 2028. With this rulemaking, we ensure compliance with GCRA and EO14303 and announce our intent to issue the new "National Global Change Assessment" (NGCA 1) on or around the same timeline as the proposed NCA 6.

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[3] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-section-202a"]

[4] [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-clean-air-act-0" \h] [add a list of major rules that rely on the endangerment finding?]

[5] Need some examples.

DOJ_00100083

III. Specification of Errors in NCA 5 and Previous Reports

Commented [TF8]: Please feel free to tee off on this section. I pasted John's initial thoughts here

Past global change reports—which so far have been called National Climate Assessments—have repeatedly failed on ___ counts to comply with GCRA and/or EO14303. Specifically,

From JC:

Rejection of NCA5 based on significant problems. DoE-CR = Department of Energy Climate Report May 2025.

NCA5 failed to verify climate model output as fit-for-purpose. DoE-CR Ch4,5.

NCA5 relied on model output based on an implausible emissions scenario. DoE-CR Ch4,5

NCA5 misrepresented changes in extreme weather events by using short data records and improper mathematical analyses. DoE-CR Ch6.

NCA5 failed to investigate the full range of impacts, especially the positive impacts, of adding CO2 to the atmosphere while overstating the negative impacts. DoE-CR Ch1,2,3,9,11.

NCA5 failed to perform a comprehensive analysis of economic impacts of enhanced atmospheric CO2. DoE-CR Ch9-12.

NCA5 failed to perform ~~comprehensive~~ scientifically defensible analyses ~~(using the scientific method)~~ regarding attribution of those changes that have been observed. DoE-CR Ch8.

A. The NCA ignores non-climate changes

Commented [RS9]: I would put as the first error the reliance on extremely unlikely CO2 emissions scenarios; RCP/SSP 8.5 is mentioned more than all other scenarios combined in NCA5.

Commented [RS10]: I'm not an expert on the NCAs, but from what I've seen they do cover most if not all of the list in this paragraph.

The NCA is tasked with covering the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity and their respective long-term changes over 25 and 100 years.

Instead the NCA puts a narrow focus on climate and, for any given area of global change, only discusses the climate change-related impacts on that area. Societal changes such as population growth, economic development, technological advances, and increases in resilience receive little mention IS THIS CORRECT

B. The NCA ignores positive changes

Even within its narrow focus of climate, the NCA should cover positive and negative climate changes. Instead, the NCA focuses entirely on negative climate changes and completely ignores positive climate changes.[6]

The NCA analyzes increases in danger potential from extreme weather with more warming, but ignores the far more massive decline in weather-related death rates at the national and global scale and the

[6] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]

DOJ_00100085

potential for growing wealth and technological advancements to make us even safer from climate and extreme weather.[7]

The NCA emphasizes a minor projected increase in heat-related deaths, but ignores the larger projected decrease in cold-related deaths thanks to warming and the preventability of temperature-related deaths in a wealthier and more technologically advanced US and global economy.[8]

The NCA emphasizes potential for negative impacts on agriculture thanks to climate change, but ignores benefits from increasing CO2 and climate change and the far larger projected increase in agricultural productivity over the next century thanks to technological progress—which far outweighs the projected negative impacts even in high emissions scenarios.[9]

More broadly, the NCA ~~completely~~ fails to ~~make any~~ mention of the massive increase in climate resilience globally thanks to heating, A/C, irrigation systems, storm warning systems, infrastructure, and other such technology—despite the fact that these measures decreased the global decadal climate-related disaster death rate by an incredible 98% between 1920 and 2020, which required the historical use of fossil fuels and will continue to require fossil fuel use for the foreseeable future.[10]

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[7] [HYPERLINK "https://energytalkingpoints.com/3-undeniable-facts-about-climate-for-cop29/" \h]

[8] [HYPERLINK "https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00081-4/fulltext" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://financialpost.com/opinion/bjorn-lomborg-climate-change-and-deaths-from-extreme-heat-and-cold" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h][HYPERLINK "https://x.com/BjornLomborg/status/1611699218053308417" \h]

[9] [HYPERLINK "https://thebreakthrough.org/issues/food-agriculture-environment/the-ipcc-report-on-the-impacts-of-climate-change-is-depressing" \h]

[10] *For every million people on earth, annual deaths from climate-related causes (extreme temperature, drought,* flood, storms, wildfires) declined 98%--from an average of 247 per year during the 1920s to 2.5 per year during the 2010s.

Data on disaster deaths come from EM-DAT, CRED / UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium – [HYPERLINK "http://www.emdat.be" \h] (D. Guha-Sapir).

Population estimates for the 1920s from the [HYPERLINK "https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/releases/maddison-database-2010" \h], the Groningen Growth and Development Centre, Faculty of Economics and Business at University of Groningen. For years not shown, the population is assumed to have grown at a steady rate.

Population estimates for the 2010s come from [HYPERLINK "https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL" \h].

DOJ_00100086

C. The NCA amplifies negative changes

Commented [RS11]: I think this should be the first point.

~~When considering negative changes, the NCA should be precise. Instead, t~~The NCA repeatedly exaggerates and fabricates negative climate changes.

Example: The NCA exaggerates projected climate harms using ~~highly~~ implausible emissions scenarios like RCP8.5.

The NCA uncritically employs a set of extremely implausible to impossible scenarios (e.g., RCP8.5/SSP3-7.0) in the projection of future outcomes, and treats them as equally plausible to other scenarios. Even though ~~mainstream climatology views~~ these scenarios and their associated projected outcomes—such as sea level rises of over 2 meters by the year 2100—~~to be incredibly unlikely~~ are regarded as implausible, the NCA ~~describes these scenarios as all being plausible futures and even~~ regards these scenarios as worth emphasizing.

For example, the NCA5 mentions that "mass fish die-offs from extreme summertime heat are projected to double by midcentury in northern temperate lakes under a very high scenario (RCP8.5)." No other outcome under a different scenario is mentioned in this context, despite this being an ~~incredibly unlikely to impossible~~ implausible scenario. And there is no mention of the uncertainties involved in such an extreme and unlikely projection.[11]

Another example comes from the electricity sector. NCA5 states that "Annual expenditures on electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure *could* rise up to 25% by 2090 under a very high scenario (RCP8.5) compared to a scenario without climate change." (emphasis added) There is no attempt to assess the likelihood of this outcome, no mention of any other more realistic scenario, no acknowledgement that a scenario without climate change is impossible and not a sound baseline for comparison. There is also no mention that the promoted climate policies in NCA5—increasing reliance on green electricity from solar and wind—have already and would continue to massively increase the cost of such infrastructure~~, while some simple adaptation measures—like burying transmission lines—could likely nullify the potential impacts of extreme weather on such infrastructure by the late 21st century~~.[12]

Example: The NCA exaggerates harms from extreme weather events using the pseudoscientific "billion-dollar disaster" statistic.

The NCA uncritically cites ~~the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's~~ NOAA's "billion-dollar disasters" statistic, which counts the number of natural disasters in the U.S. each year that cause at least $1 billion in damages, as evidence that "[h]armful impacts from more frequent and severe extremes are increasing across the country"—despite the inadequacy of disaster cost statistics to derive extreme weather trends because of the multiple factors—like economic growth and disproportionately increasing populations in vulnerable spots—involved, and the enormous methodological and data collection flaws in NOAA's product, which violate basic principles of scientific integrity and transparency.[13]

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[11] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[12] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/" \h]
[13] [HYPERLINK "https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://doi.org/10.1038/s44304-024-00011-0" \h]

NOAA's billion dollar disaster statistic represents an outlier finding in defiance of available quality scientific publications and the IPCC, which finds that most human impacts on climate extremes like storms and floods are yet undetected and will likely remain so for the rest of the century, even assuming very high emission scenarios.[14]

Based on the scientific literature, disaster cost trends are flat and can mostly or even completely be explained by increases in demographic trends and increasing concentrations of wealth in vulnerable areas like coastlines, rendering the NCA's claims at minimum a major exaggeration of the truth.[15]

The NCA fails to acknowledge uncertainty.

Despite the statute's mandate that USGCRP's report "discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings," the NCA completely fails to identify the extremely high levels of uncertainty associated with these future outcomes.

[expand]

Additional examples may be found in the public comment and response record.[16]

Commented [TF12]: Does anyone want to comb through the record and find some of the more egregious examples?

[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-are-a-national?utm_source=publication-search" \h]
[HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/billion-dollar-disasters-not-the" \h]
[14] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/what-the-ipcc-actually-says-about?utm_source=publication-search" \h]
[15] [HYPERLINK "https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/climate-change-is-showing-its-claws" \h]
[16] [HYPERLINK "https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA5_Public-Comments-Author-Responses-ZOD.pdf" \h]

IV. Reforms to the USGCRP

A. Rename the report and address a broad range of global changes

DON'T LIKE THE WORLD GLOBAL HERE. ARE WE REALLY TALKINGABOUT AFRICA ETC

To date, the global change report has failed to comply with the GCRA because it is not comprehensive. The report is renamed the "National Global Change Assessment" and must address "global change" as it is defined in the statute. Past reports including NCA5 have interpreted the term to mean something like "climate change and its related global effects." But while "global change" includes climate change, it is not limited to it. We will stake out a broader scope for the report, which will include important trends and help to close relevant knowledge gaps about potentially important topics, as intended by Congress.

In particular, the revamped assessment will highlight trends in things like [please add items as necessary] energy production/use, known reserves, deaths from natural disaster and temperature exposure, human health, agricultural production, total/coastal populations, criteria pollutant emissions, forest cover, solar insolation, potable water, etc.

The word global is misleading and ambiguous here. We should be talking about a comprehensive climate risk assessment for the US

B. Reject unrealistic scenarios and address uncertainties

The next assessment shall not rely on any implausible emissions scenarios. For example the next assessment must not include any references to UN IPCC report outcomes or ~~similarly flawed~~ other analyses that are based on SSP3-7.0 or RCP8.5, which are nowknown to involve unrealistically high future CO_2 emissions.

The next assessment shall examine the plausibility and limitations of scenarios describing the potential future under global changes and limit its analysis to scenarios that are at least within the likely range of possible developments. For climate scenarios this should mean a limit to those futures that feature no more than 3°C of warming above preindustrial levels.

C. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment shall acknowledge uncertainty about future changes and the potential of humans to adapt to or mitigate negative impacts through technological advancements. The goal is to identify key drivers of human well-being, including economic prosperity and freedom of action to optimize these factors on the individual, national, and global level.

D. Is This a New Reform Topic?

The next assessment must be regarded as a "highly influential scientific assessment" under the Information Quality Act (IQA), subjecting its review to additional obligations, including: reproducibility, transparency, utility, traceability, objectivity and integrity. To date, assessments falsely claim to have complied with these provisions of the IQA based on supposed compliance by the more than 700 authors

Commented [RS13]: I don't understand this. The NCAs include all kinds of (supposed) changes, and if anything they IGNORE global effects, and instead address climate change effects in just the U.S.

Commented [RS14]: The NCAs already cover most of these.

Commented [TF15]: From EO14303: "agencies have used Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenario 8.5 to assess the potential effects of climate change in a "higher" warming scenario. RCP 8.5 is a worst-case scenario based on highly unlikely assumptions like end-of-century coal use exceeding estimates of recoverable coal reserves. Scientists have warned that presenting RCP 8.5 as a likely outcome is misleading."

Commented [TF16]: Should probably mention and spell this out earlier in the document

Commented [RS17]: Future warming depends upon emissions scenarios PLUS climate model sensitivity, which hasn't been discussed yet.

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DOJ_00100089

of the assessment who were tasked with evaluating their sources of information using a decision tree and IQA questionnaire. The public has never been provided with these evaluations.

The new Committee should consider making all prior (self-assessment) evaluations publicly available. If the Committee is unable to find these evaluations, the public should be informed the federal government has no (or incomplete) records of these evaluations.

Commented [RS18]: This seems out of place

E. Is This a New Reform Topic?

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The next assessment must use proper language to accurately inform decisionmakers and the public. To date, the assessments use inconsistent outcome metrics and do not use risk assessment terms consistent with established practice, resulting in unlikely findings, and non-compliance with the GCRA and the IQA. A new assessment should use consistent definitions of "risk", "hazard", "vulnerability", "consequences" and "impacts." "Risk" should be the probability-weighted combination of "hazard" (hazard identification and dose-response) and "exposure" (exposure assessment). To date, the assessments have portrayed hazards as actual exposures.

C.F. Address both positive and negative changes

To date, the global change report has failed to be an objective piece of written communication. The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Committee must follow the statute and seek information on "changes," meaning both positive and negative trends.

The next assessment shall include potential costs and benefits of various global changes and discuss them in light of larger domestic and global trends. For example, the impacts of GHG emissions over the next 25 or 100 years on agriculture must include an assessment of actual trends in agriculture, which show a net increase in food production globally and in the US. GHG emissions have many nuances effects including the fertilization effect of carbon dioxide on plants, not just warming impacts.

D.G. Restructure committees and replace key personnel

To date, the global change report has failed to follow the principles of objectivity and to comply with the statute. These failures can be attributed, in part, to the choice of lead authors creating the report. The authorship of the NCAs has increased dramatically since NCA1 (112 authors) to NCA5 (over 500 authors). This is the direct result of at least two problems: (1) large governmental research budgets funding a marching army of climate researchers, and (2) overly sensitive global climate models that produce an endless source of alarming future climate changes in response to unrealistic future CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere.

This bloat in NCA authorship, as well as in various steering committees, expert advisory panels, and review boards must be curtailed. To follow the GCRA and EO14303, USGCRP will insist on a careful selection of leadership for a ~~brand~~ new report amongst candidates who have a track record of scientific integrity and who lack personal or professional conflicts of interest with regards to the global change report and its potential policy implications.

DOJ_00100090

For example, the choice of authors such as Zeke Hausfather of Stripe, Inc., a business that profits from carbon offset mandates, and Katherine Hayhoe, a leader of the environmental political advocacy group Nature Conservancy, are highly concerning from both a financial conflict of interest and ideological perspective.

In addition to questionable authors, there have been questionable reviewers. For example, the 2021 National Academies report titled "Global Change Research Needs and Opportunities for 2022-2031" included contributors who are advocates for lawsuits against energy companies.[17] Kristie Ebi, vice chair and curriculum advisor for the Climate Judiciary Project, promotes climate activism by judges.

USGCRP will appoint lead authors of the new report who have an exceptionally strong track record of scientific integrity and objectivity. These authors shall be appointed by a combination of (1) a new Request for Proposals for candidates and choosing among those who respond and (2) a top-down approach wherein the members of the Committee nominate potential authors and then, with the approval of the OSTP, the USGCRP director contacts them and engages them on a work agreement.

[17] See here: [HYPERLINK "https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26055/global-change-research-needs-and-opportunities-for-2022-2031" \h]

DOJ_00100091

V. Conclusion

The assessments undertaken so far under the GCRA fail to satisfy the requirements of that statute. They also cannot comply with EO14303 because they include implausible future emissions scenarios. USGCRP hereby rejects NCA 5 and previous assessments and initiates a new process for completing a National Global Change Assessment that will follow the GCRA and advance the gold standard science required by EO14303.

DOJ_00100092

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The 1990 Act almost universally specified "global", but the NCAs (for whatever reason) went with U.S. impacts. I asked Pielke Jr about this and he just said, hey, they do what they want.

So, if we want to make more work for ourselves, we can go with global. But I'd prefer sticking with the U.S.... Unless we can find 500+ sympathetic authors. ☺

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(i) reproducible;
(ii) transparent;
(iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
(iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
(v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
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> Sustainable: 295
> Inequality/Unequal: 201
> Racism/Racial: 153
> Low-Income: 105
> Injustice: 94
> Communities of Color: 67
> Minorities: 37

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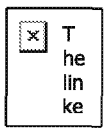

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Inequality/Unequal: 201

Racism/Racial: 153

Low-Income: 105

Injustice: 94

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Minorities: 37

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At today's meeting let's clarify what the document needs to accomplish and then we can spend the next week or so working on it. I think replacing the NCA leviathan with something very small and useful is a good goal to take on.

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Here's the text of the Global Change Research Act relevant to the NCA (from https://www.globalchange.gov/about-us/legal-mandate#public-law):

SEC. 106. SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT

On a periodic basis (not less frequently than every 4 years), the Council, through the Committee, shall prepare and submit to the President and the Congress an assessment which:

1. Integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings of the Program and discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings

2. Analyzes the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity

3. Analyzes current trends in global change, both human- induced and natural, and projects major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.

My paraphrase: The Science and its uncertainties; Impacts observed; current trends and their projections over 25-100 years .

Geographical scope (U.S. or global) is ambiguous, but clearly easier to do the US

Apart from some of the impact areas (energy production and use, land/water resources, transportation, …) what we've written just about fills the bill.

Although I agree with Judy that the proper framing for a discussion of societal response is risk-based, I think that's beyond the scope of what's been mandated. It's just about the science, its uncertainties, and the risks posed.

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I agree with Steve that we have a direct line to NCA reform. Please see the attached document, which I compiled with some help. If you want to hear the details behind the assignment, I suggest we have a video meeting soon (best time for me would be 2 pm ET tomorrow). The takeaway is that we should draft this with a future director of the USGCRP in mind as the author.

Please feel free to put this in Dropbox if that's helpful. I want to make sure you all have an opportunity to chime in. My best guess as to a deadline for submitting this to the folks who might issue it is June 16. The biggest lift remaining, as I see it, is to map the elements of the DOE report to the right places in this draft. Please don't be shy about referencing the DOE report!

Best,

Travis

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I think OSTP is quite open to suggestions.

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But what we've written shows the science is far from settled.

So NCA needs to get back to basics.

Steven E. Koonin

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Your thoughts on our group making a pre-emptive unofficial recommendation on what should be in the next NCA and how the process should proceed? or is there some infrastructure on this that is already underway (i'm out of the loop). Some pre-emptive common sense might be useful

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NASEM on climate was an entirely different matter. I got stonewalled when I tried to complain about it to the management. And friends who were on climate-related studies have some horror stories to tell.

I'd hope that if we do a critique of NCA5, we'll also comment on the NASEM role. They really dropped the ball.

SEK

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:53 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

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The data show universities are about 95/5 dems/gop and not only that, but among the dems the party identification is "strong" versus mostly "weak" or "leans" among gop. So draw a random sample from academia (ensuring a "wide range" of views blah blah blah) and you end up with left and further left. Up until recently we had to go along with the illusion that expert panels can be relied upon to provide balanced scientific advice but the obvious bias of the IPCC and NCA, among others (CDC, WHO etc) have killed that expectation. They let themselves be colonized by the left and now they've lost any claim on public trust.

RPJr posted this data from a recent UChicago survey

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Almost 50% of republicans (and 30% of independents) now view ivy league universities not just as useless but as their enemies. The antagonism is fully deserved. The NASEM needs to commission a

report explaining why the universities became such one-sided intolerant monocultures and what can be done to fix it, and until they tackle that issue they too deserve the DOGE treatment.

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I've downloaded the report (https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/) There's very little of the foundational science in its 1834 pages(!) that's amenable to serious scientific critique.

I also attach the NASEM review of the NCA5 draft, as well as the authors' responses to that review.

And here's a link to the "gold standard" EO: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/ . A reminder that its criteria are:

(i) reproducible;
(ii) transparent;
(iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
(iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
(v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
(vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
(vii) subject to unbiased peer review;
(viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
(ix) without conflicts of interest.

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

This mirrors the word usage from the briefing we received from the head of NCA5.

John C.

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Culture/Culturally: 854

Equity/Equitable: 572

Sustainable: 295

Inequality/Unequal: 201

Racism/Racial: 153

Low-Income: 105

Injustice: 94

Communities of Color: 67

Minorities: 37

--

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com |
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From: judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: Travis Fisher; Roy Spencer; Ross McKitrick; John Christy; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Risks. Combine hazard exposure vulnerability. Steve are you proposing we focus only on hazard and not exposure or vulnerability. This has been sort of attempted in previous ncas but in a rather pathetic and inadequate manner
Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2025, at 11:13 AM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Here's the text of the Global Change Research Act relevant to the NCA (from https://www.globalchange.gov/about-us/legal-mandate#public-law):

> **SEC. 106. SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT**
> On a periodic basis (not less frequently than every 4 years), the Council, through the Committee, shall prepare and submit to the President and the Congress an assessment which:
> 1. Integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings of the Program and discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings
> 2. Analyzes the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity
> 3. Analyzes current trends in global change, both human- induced and natural, and projects major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.

My paraphrase: The Science and its uncertainties; Impacts observed; current trends and their projections over 25-100 years .

Geographical scope (U.S. or global) is ambiguous, but clearly easier to do the US

Apart from some of the impact areas (energy production and use, land/water resources, transportation, …) what we've written just about fills the bill.

Although I agree with Judy that the proper framing for a discussion of societal response is risk-based, I think that's beyond the scope of what's been mandated. It's just about the science, its uncertainties, and the risks posed.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Ross

McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Actually, I think a national climate assessment is the appropriate framing, but we need a comprehensive risk assessment using 21st century risk science (the IPCC AR6 actually tried to take some steps in this direction). The global change thing has always been a misnomer, I don't think we should double down on that.

IMO we should talk about evolving the NCA

On Fri, May 30, 2025 at 10:48 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

> To be super clear, I have no idea what I'm doing (at all). Please reframe and edit as you see fit!
>
> That said, I think the connection to global issues is unavoidable given the statute we're dealing with (the Global Change Research Act).
>
> If we want to narrow the definition of "global" to mean "global changes that impact the mainland US," I think that's a workable approach.
>
> On Fri, May 30, 2025 at 1:34 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
>
> > Yes, "global" confused me as well.
> >
> > **From:** Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
> > **Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 12:32 PM
> > **To:** Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
> > **Cc:** Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
> > **Subject:** Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?
> >
> > I started a markup of roy's version (attached).
> >
> > But i think something different is needed. I am confused for the recommendation re GLOBAL (do you really mean Africa etc). I propose a framing in context of risk assessment. Part III of my book Climate Uncertainty and Risk addresses this issue - Risk and Response (if anyone wants a pdf copy of the book let me know), I've attached ch 10 on risk assessment
> >
> > On Fri, May 30, 2025 at 9:40 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
> >
> > > Attached find Travis' original draft with some of my suggestions added.
> > >
> > > I'm dealing with family health issues today, which are always in flux, so I'm 50/50 for joining the meeting.
> > >
> > > -Roy

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Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:32 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
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DOJ_00100116

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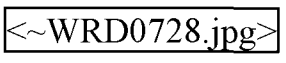
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DOJ_00100118

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2025 8:18 PM
To: Fisher, Travis
Cc: climateman60@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; steven.koonin@gmail.com; Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua
Subject: Re: Fw: Update: Technical reviewers

Well this is interesting. I like the suggestion that we list major uncertainties for future research but that seems to be more of a task for the NCA6 recommendtions

On Sun, Jul 20, 2025 at 4:08 PM Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov> wrote:
FYI.

I haven't reviewed these comments yet, just passing them along before I get on a flight back to DC.

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2025 4:44 PM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Travis,

My review is attached. I don't have the technical depth at this point in my career that the Lab scientists do. But my top-level comment is that this report would be really helpful to DOE (and I assume the secretary) if it was more explicit about the biggest scientific uncertainties, where further research is most needed. If the authors could add a brief section listing these and prioritizing these uncertainties, it could be extremely helpful. I suspect this would also make the report more palatable to the science community.

The secretary's remarks could highlight this as a key purpose of the report as well, and I believe this would increase the interest of the audience.

Tris is also doing a review, so he can share his comments separately.

Dorothy

From: Fisher, Travis <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>; West, Tristram <[redacted].gov>
Subject: [Not Virus Scanned] RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Hi Dorothy and Tristram,

Attached please find for your review a draft of the DOE's Climate Working Group report. It is password protected and watermarked due to the highly sensitive nature of the material. Please do not distribute this draft. If you decide to broaden your review team, just let me know and I will send the other reviewer(s) a unique copy.

Password: [redacted]

Thank you for reviewing this report on such short notice and under a tight deadline. I sincerely appreciate it.

Best,
Travis

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: RE: Update: Technical reviewers

Ok will do.
Dorothy

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 8:22 AM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: Re: Update: Technical reviewers

Thanks, Dorothy.

Yes, I will guarantee complete anonymity or lab-only attribution on our end, whichever you prefer. I fully understand the sensitivity of the assignment. That said, I will also note that some of the authors' names have already leaked, which was out of my control. But I commit to doing everything within my control to keep reviewers anonymous.

To widen the field, I would suggest you go down the list you provided and stop when you hit a critical mass. Five would be great, but fewer is ok with me—I defer to you on what seems like the right number of technical reviewers. If the experts' willingness and availability limits us to two or three lab reviewers under the tight timeframe, that is ok.

I will get copies of the report to you and Tris this morning. Please do not share it further. If you think of an additional reviewer within your team that you'd like to include, just let me know and I will get them a unique copy.

Thanks so much for your help!

Best,
Travis

From: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:59 AM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Subject: Update: Technical reviewers

Dear Travis,

I am working on recruiting reviewers, this may not be easy on such short notice.

Of the original list, 1 confirms participation pending he stays anonymous. Two are unavailable. I haven't heard back from the other 2 yet.

I would request that all reviewers remain anonymous or include lab attribution only, so please confirm if that is possible.

Here's a list of some additional possibilities to consider, I suggest that you pick another 5 from this list and we can use whichever we hear back from first, noting that mid-summer many are away on vacation, etc:

- Dave Bader (LLNL; [redacted].gov): https://people.llnl.gov/bader2. expertise in climate and Earth system model development and analysis
- Rich Norby (ORNL; [redacted].gov); Richard J. Norby, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. expert in carbon field studies in ecology
- Peter Thornton (ORNL) https://www.ornl.gov/staff-profile/peter-e-thornton land systems, carbon, modeling and climate
- Allen Fawcett (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/allen-fawcett human-energy-environment interactions
- Ian Kraucunas (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/ian-kraucunas energy and earth system modeling and analysis
- Jae Edmonds (PNNL) https://www.pnnl.gov/people/jae-edmonds global and regional energy and climate interactions
- Rao Kotamarthi (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/rao-kotamarthi climate impacts, modeling
- Cristina Negri (ANL) https://www.anl.gov/profile/cristina-negri environment and impacts

In addition to myself from BER, please include Tristram West ([redacted].gov) who works with me.

I will be requesting the reviews be sent to you and to me by COB Monday. In addition to providing our own reviews, Tris and I can help collate the reviews by COB Tuesday.

Dorothy

From: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:36 PM
To: Koch, Dorothy <[redacted].gov>
Subject: FW: Technical reviewers

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:10 PM
To: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Coe, Carl (HQ) <carl.coe@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: Technical reviewers

I defer to Carl on any policy calls like this, but I'm inclined to say we can keep their identities private if reviewers request it is a condition of their participation. In other words, I think it should be up to them. In the peer review report, we will probably have to identify some of their credentials, but we can leave PII out of it and refer to each as Reviewer 1, 2, 3, etc.

From: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:04 PM
To: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Coe, Carl <carl.coe@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: Technical reviewers

Travis—confirmed receipt. I've connected with Dorothy after our call – we will be contacting the reviewers as soon as we are able to provide the context and confirm their availability to meet the review timeline.

One question we have is whether the names of the reviewers will be made public – we anticipate this question will likely come up when we contact them.

Thanks,
Harriet

From: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Kung, Harriet <[redacted].gov>
Cc: Coe, Carl (HQ) <carl.coe@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Technical reviewers

Hi Harriet,

Thanks so much for taking the time to talk earlier this afternoon. As I mentioned on our call, we would like to move forward with the following subject matter experts at the labs, plus anyone you and Dorothy identify as relevant subject matter experts within the Office of Science.

1. **Stan Wullschleger** (ORNL; [redacted].gov): https://www.ornl.gov/content/stan-wullschleger. carbon-ecology-climate dynamics
2. **Bill Riley** (LBNL; [redacted].gov): William Riley | About | Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. carbon and biogeochemistry dynamics in earth system models
3. **Julie Jastrow** (ANL; [redacted].gov): Julie D. Jastrow | Argonne National Laboratory. carbon project with particular focus on the Arctic
4. **Michael Wehner** (LBNL; [redacted].gov): Michael Wehner. expertise in extreme events in a changing climate
5. **Bill Collins** (LBNL; [redacted].gov): William Collins | About | Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. expertise in climate and earth system dynamics, modeling, and AI

I am happy to send each of these reviewers a uniquely watermarked PDF of the report once you've had the opportunity to speak with them. Please also extend an open invitation for them (or your staff) to contact me if they have any questions about the process or the early stages of this effort. My personal cell is the best way to reach me: [redacted].

The key things to emphasize are the sensitivity of this process, the importance of their comments in improving the report, and the high priority the Secretary places on this work. I want each reviewer to be as candid as possible in their review, and I simply can't thank them enough for the quick turnaround—we will need all comments by the end of the day on Monday.

Also, I sincerely appreciate your offer to help in compiling the comments and producing the peer review report with me. Please give Dorothy my best wishes too as you both undertake this work on a

tight deadline. As I've already told some of my team members, you are my new favorite person at DOE.

The attached PDF is an example of what I will be sending each reviewer individually. Feel free to share it with Dorothy so you both have some context for your calls (but keep a very close hold otherwise).

Thanks again!

Best,
Travis

--

Judith Curry, President
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curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
http://www.cfanclimate.net

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:42 AM
To: John Christy
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steve Koonin; Ross McKitrick; Roy W. Spencer; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: CWG current edition

He's obviously not objective about our team, lets not include him if that is possible

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 4:47 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:
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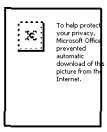
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To: Steve Koonin
Cc: Judith Curry; Travis Fisher; Ross McKitrick; Roy W. Spencer; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: CWG current edition

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Actually - that may be an effective strategy. Let Dave respond "on the record" rather than through other less constrained channels.

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Ross

Edits for final approval:

Page ix: . "… and that our within our competence." To "… and that are within our competence."

Page 61, bottom. Now: … "occurred between December 1861 and January 1862;" To, … "occurred during December 1861 and January 1862;" [technically, there is no temporal space between Dec and Jan for anything to occur.]

Pg 96 top. Now "U.S. history occurred prior to the first half of the 20th century…". To; "… U.S. history occurred in the first half of the 20th century…"

Page 134. I don't see "Tonne" defined as metric ton in the glossary.

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DOJ_00100131

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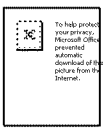

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Sent: 7/15/2025 12:05:58 AM
To: 'John Christy' [climateman60@gmail.com]; 'Judith Curry' [curry.judith@gmail.com]
CC: 'Travis Fisher' [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; 'Ross McKitrick' [ross.mckitrick@gmail.com]; 'Roy W. Spencer' [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; 'Josh Loucks' [loucksj14@gmail.com]; 'Seth Cohen' [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: RE: CWG current edition
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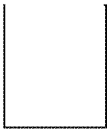

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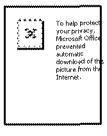

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From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 6:06 PM
To: Travis Fisher
Cc: Steven Koonin; Ross McKitrick; Judith Curry; Roy W. Spencer; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: CWG current edition

Dave Bader is not to be considered - highly antagonistic to anything that doesn't support the narrative, and is not a climate scientist. Heard of Bill Collins (modeler in UCB) but don't know the others.

John C.

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Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 5:49 PM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin; Roy W. Spencer; John Christy; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: CWG current edition

I looked up these names, most are ecologists.
Check out Kate Calvin

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Sent: 7/14/2025 9:46:56 PM
To: 'Judith Curry' [curry.judith@gmail.com]; 'Ross McKitrick' [ross.mckitrick@gmail.com]
CC: 'Travis Fisher' [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; 'Roy W. Spencer' [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; 'John Christy' [climateman60@gmail.com]; 'Josh Loucks' [loucksj14@gmail.com]; 'Seth Cohen' [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: RE: CWG current edition
Attachments: ~WRD3897.jpg

Agree on Collins. And I know Dave Bader – reasonable guy.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 5:43 PM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
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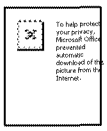

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